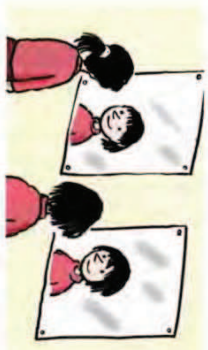


9 Reflexive and other pronouns



1 Alice and Imogen are looking at each other.



2 Alice and Imogen are looking at themselves.

1 Reflexive pronouns

Compare the form and use of object pronouns and reflexive pronouns:

OBJECT/RECEIVER	me/myself	you/yourself	him/himself	her/herself	it/itself
us/ourselves	you/yourselves	them/themselves			

Her name is Christine but her friends call her Tina. (her = object pronoun)

Her name is Christine but she calls herself Tina. (herself = reflexive pronoun)

We use reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, etc.) when the subject and object of a sentence are the same person or thing: *Have you hurt yourself?*

We can also use reflexive pronouns to emphasise the subject of the sentence: *Why do I have to do everything myself? Dentists use this toothpaste themselves.*

By myself/himself, etc. means 'alone/on your own' or 'without help':

'Do you live by yourself?' 'No, I share a flat.' *The children did the drawing by themselves.*

2 Verbs with reflexive pronouns

Some verbs are often used with reflexive pronouns, for example:

They didn't enjoy themselves on the activity holiday – it was hard work!

Help yourself to some food – there's plenty of it!

Did the children behave themselves at the zoo?

I blame myself for the mistakes in the report – I didn't check it carefully.

A Complain, feel, remember, rest, relax, get up and stand up do not have a reflexive pronoun:

X Do you remember yourself the hotel? ✓ Do you remember the hotel?

But we can use a reflexive with wash, shave and dress if the situation is unusual:

✓ After my operation I couldn't dress myself for three weeks.

3 each other, one another

We use *each other* and *one another* when the subject and object are different:

Alice and Imogen are looking at each other/one another.

(= Alice is looking at Imogen and Imogen is looking at Alice.)

Compare: *Alice and Imogen are looking at themselves.*

(= Alice is looking at Alice and Imogen is looking at Imogen.)

4 you, one and they

We often use *you* for people in general: *You can't park here after 8.30 in the morning.*

We can also use *one* but it is very formal: *One needs to be careful when travelling alone.*

We often use *they* for the people in government or in charge of organisations:

They're putting taxes up again. They closed the factory in 2008.

We also use *they* to talk about someone when we don't know who he or she is:

Someone left this note for you, but they didn't leave their name.

Practice

1 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first. Use reflexive pronouns and any other words that are necessary. 2.17 Listen and check.

- 0 We hope that all our guests have a good time.
We hope that all our guests enjoy *themselves*.
- 1 Children under twelve must be with an adult.
Children under twelve can't see the film
- 2 Danger! Hard hats must be worn to prevent injury.
If you don't wear a hard hat, you may
- 3 This is a self-service restaurant.
In this restaurant, we have to get the food
- 4 Any of the team's supporters found causing problems will be removed.
All the supporters must behave

2 Match the sentences 1-5 with the pictures A-F.

A

B

C

D

E

F

- 0 Ryan brought his brother home and made him a cup of coffee. D.....
- 1 Ryan got home late and made himself a cup of coffee. A.....
- 2 Jane went out with her daughter and bought her an ice cream.
- 3 Jane went out this afternoon and bought herself an ice cream.
- 4 The elephants frequently wash themselves.
- 5 The elephants enjoy washing one another.

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Read the conversation and choose the correct words in *italics*.

2.18 Listen and check.

TONI Hi, Jan. Did you have a good holiday?
 JAN Oh yes, thanks. We really enjoyed (0) *us* (ourselves)! We were in one of those really big holiday clubs, you know, where (1) *you* / *they* pay before you go. There were a lot of activities, so the twins could look after (2) *them* / *themselves* and we didn't have to worry about (3) *them* / *themselves*.
 TONI They're old enough to play with (4) *them* / *each other* now, anyway, aren't they?
 JAN Oh, of course, we can leave them (5) *by* / *on* themselves now for short periods and not worry. Oh, how's your roof, by the way? Did you get it fixed?
 TONI Well, the builder started, but he fell off a ladder and hurt (6) *himself* / *himself*. He wasn't badly hurt but he couldn't finish the roof.
 JAN It's true what (7) *one* / *they* say – if you want a job done well, do it (8) *yourself* / *your own*!