

Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns

Lesson 22

Lesson 22 – Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns

Intensive Pronouns

An ***intensive pronoun*** (also known as an emphatic pronoun) refers back to another noun (or pronoun) in the sentence to emphasize it.



The mayor *himself* attended the ceremony. (The mayor is the noun being intensified. It is called the antecedent of the intensive pronoun.)



I heard the lie *myself*. (The intensive pronoun myself emphasizes that I heard the lie.)



She will do it *herself*. (The intensive pronoun herself emphasizes that she will do it. Her mother won't do it. Her brother won't do it. SHE will do it.)

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You can test if it's an intensive pronoun by removing it and seeing if you get the same effect by emphasizing the thing you're trying to emphasize with your voice (shown here in uppercase).

- THE MAYOR attended the ceremony.
- SHE will do it.
- I heard the lie.

The way to identify an intensive pronoun is to remove it from the sentence; if it's an intensive pronoun, the sentence will still make sense. If the sentence no longer makes sense, it's a reflexive pronoun.

- Did you *yourself* make the cake?
 - (The sentence would still make sense if we removed *yourself*: Did you make the cake?)



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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Choose the correct intensive pronoun to fill the blank in each sentence.

1. We built a garden shed by _____.

Myself Ourselves
Themselves Herself

2. Jordan made _____ a sandwich,
complete with pickles.

Ourselves Yourself
Himself Themselves

3. I'm a little nervous about walking by
_____ after dark.

Myself Ourselves
Themselves Herself

4. The twins are growing up fast; they're
already walking by _____.

Myself Ourselves
Himself Themselves

5. Jennifer sewed her dress _____.

Myself Himself
Ourselves Herself

6. Did you _____ make our dinner?

Ourselves Yourself
Himself Themselves

7. Leave it alone! I will do it _____.

Myself Ourselves
Themselves Herself

8. The kids _____ have dressed properly
for the occasion.

Ourselves Yourself
Himself Themselves

9. The students _____ were excited
about the field trip.

Myself Ourselves
Themselves Herself

10. You _____ is a good friend to me.

Myself Yourself
Himself Themselves

Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Identify the intensive pronoun in each sentence below.

1. *He himself brought a gift for his parents.*
2. *Did you yourself make the dinner?*
3. *I myself like to take walks after breakfast.*
4. *She herself did a great job on setting up the party.*
5. *Leave it alone! I will do it myself.*
6. *Did you discover that yourself?*
7. *I myself feel like I did a great job.*
8. *They themselves are ready for the game.*
9. *You yourself need to be more careful.*
10. *We ourselves made sure to be on time*
11. *Did you yourself make the dinner?*
12. *I myself like to take walks after breakfast.*
13. *She herself did a great job on setting up the party.*
14. *Leave it alone! I will do it myself.*
15. *Did you discover that yourself?*
16. *I myself feel like I did a great job.*
17. *They themselves are ready for the game.*
18. *You yourself need to be more careful.*
19. *We ourselves made sure to be on time.*
20. *You yourselves can win the game.*

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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

For each intensive pronoun listed below, write a sentence. Make sure the intensive pronoun adds emphasis to the subject of the sentence.

Example:

 themselves - The boys baked these scones themselves

1. himself - _____
2. myself - _____
3. yourself - _____
4. herself - _____
5. ourselves - _____
6. themselves - _____
7. itself - _____
8. themselves - _____

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Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are a bit different from the other kinds of pronouns. They cause the verb to reflect back on the subject. In other words, reflexive pronouns are used when the subject of the sentence is the same as the object of the verb of that sentence.



I washed myself clean in the bathtub.

(It is clear that the subject of the sentence, “I,” was not washing anyone else clean in the bathtub but him or herself.)

Matching Reflexive and Personal Pronouns

Personal Pronoun	Reflexive Pronouns
I	myself
you	yourself
you	yourselves
he	himself
she	herself
it	itself
we	ourselves
they	themselves

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Matching Reflexive and Personal Pronouns

The reason that these reflexive pronouns exist is to make it clear that the subject is in fact doing something to itself. Instead of acting upon another object, the subject is acting upon itself, either literally or figuratively. This is especially helpful when using the third person plural. Consider the following two examples:

- They liked them.
- They liked themselves.

In the first example, you can't be sure if "them" is the same as the subject "they" – "them" could represent another group of people, or apples, or movies – the possibilities are endless and could be anything for any reason. However, you have a better understanding with the second sentence, because you know that whatever "they" stands for, it is the same subject as "themselves."

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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Fill in the blanks with the proper reflexive pronouns.

1. The dog had fleas. He always scratched _____.
2. I shave _____ every morning before I go to work.
3. Tom usually cuts his hair _____.
4. Carol dresses _____ very well.
5. My computer system is damaged. It turns _____ off.
6. I'm not going to do that for you. You can do it _____.
7. Mike's son is old enough to cook _____ now.
8. Susan and I walked to the store by _____.
9. They stood in front of the mirror and looked at _____.
10. When we go to the restaurant, I'll pay for my food and you can pay for yours _____.
11. He drives _____ to work every day.
12. Mary doesn't like to drive _____ to work. So, she usually takes the underground.
13. The book was on the floor. It fell off the shelf by _____.
14. I asked him for a glass of water, and he told me to get it _____.
15. Rick and Maria are able to look after _____.

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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Fill in the blanks with the proper reflexive pronouns.

16. Tom cut _____ while he was shaving this morning.
17. We really enjoyed _____ very much.
18. I repaired my bike _____.
19. Why don't you clean the windows _____?
20. Jack and I introduced _____ to our new neighbor.
21. He decided to repair his bike _____.
22. They looked at _____.
23. The film _____ wasn't very good, but I liked the music.
24. The old woman sat at the park bench talking to _____.
25. Let's paint the house _____.
26. Did you write it _____?
27. She locked the door _____.
28. The children cleaned their room _____.
29. Ann baked the cake _____.
30. The cat caught the mouse _____.

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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Rewrite each sentence appropriately with the subject personal pronouns given.
Change to the appropriate reflexive pronoun.

1. I found myself in a difficult situation.

You (sing.) _____

He _____

She _____

We _____

They _____

Amy _____

2. We enjoyed ourselves at the party.

I _____

You (plu.) _____

He _____

She _____

They _____

The boys _____

3. He is going to be very proud of himself.

My friends _____

Rick and I _____

He _____

Mother _____

They _____

You _____

4. I just couldn't help myself.

You (plu.) _____

She _____

He _____

We _____

The men _____

You (sing.) _____

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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Replace the object personal pronoun in each sentence with the appropriate reflexive pronoun.

Example:

We found the children in a strange situation.

We found ourselves in a strange situation.

1. Jerry liked me in the new suit.
2. They busied her with several different tasks.
3. We were very proud ofthem.
4. She is buying us a few new outfits.
5. The children hurt me.
6. I have to ask him what to do now.
7. The young woman told you not to give in.
8. He wantsto find me something nice to wear.
9. You've harmed no one but us.
- 10.The lizard hid them under a rock

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Grammar *ACTIVITY*

Complete each of the following sentences with the correct reflexive or intensive pronoun. Then identify the pronoun as either reflexive or intensive.

Example:

Julie _____ is coming here tonight. (herself, intensive)

1. I fixed the leaking head gasket _____.
2. Fourteen tourists found _____ in an awkward situation when visiting the ruins.
3. Grabbing the microphone, Hannibal _____ spoke to the crowd.
4. The Corvette _____ is sitting in the garage waiting for you to start it.
5. Andy, Toby, and I _____ are going to build the garage.
6. The dogs barked _____ into a long, peaceful sleep.
7. We were forced to ask _____ if this project should continue or be scrapped.
8. Brooke likes to read _____ to sleep.
9. I'm guessing that you _____ will be responsible for fixing the damage.
10. The Smiths and we consider _____ honored to be invited on this trip.

The End