

Pre-Intermediate 3
Unit 1 Grammar
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Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are words that end with -self or -selves, such as *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, and themselves*.

When should we use reflexive pronouns?

- When the subject of the sentence is the same as the object, we can use a reflexive pronoun as the object.

Examples:

I cut myself when I was making dinner last night.

I ⇒ Subject

myself ⇒ Object

(The subject and the object are both the same.)

The bank robber killed himself when he couldn't run away.

The bank robber ⇒ Subject

himself ⇒ Object

Mary is looking at herself in the mirror.

Mary ⇒ Subject

herself ⇒ Object

- We can use a reflexive pronoun for emphasis.

emphasis = the particular importance or attention that is given to something

Examples:

He himself wrote the whole book. (This emphasizes that he wrote the book, not someone else)

I **myself** designed this website.

They **themselves** decided to quit their jobs.

by + Reflexive Pronoun

by + Reflexive Pronoun = alone; without any help

Examples:

She made the cake by herself. (This shows that she made the cake alone, without any help)

John painted the walls by himself.

I solved the difficult math problem by myself.

Point:

We can't use a reflexive pronoun after the prepositions "with" and "on". We should use an object pronoun instead.

Examples:

✗ I took my laptop **with myself** to school.

✓ I took my laptop **with me** to school.

✗ They brought some food **with themselves**.

✓ They brought some food **with them**.

✗ Sally didn't have any money **on herself**.

✓ Sally didn't have any money **on her**.

Source:

[Pre-Intermediate 3 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://Pre-Intermediate 3 (anglophone.ir))