

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

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- You know those words that end in –self or –selves?

Himself, herself, myself, themselves, etc...

- These forms are either **reflexive** pronouns or **intensive** pronouns. Although their spellings are the same, their uses in sentences are different.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plurals</u>
Myself	Ourselves
Yourself	Yourselves
Himself, herself, itself	themselves

Intensive Pronouns

- An **intensive pronoun** is used to *emphasize* another word, its antecedent.

Sid **himself** hung the picture.

Sid hung the picture **himself**.

- The intensive pronoun may come right after the noun or pronoun it intensifies, or it may come near the end. Use your context clues.
- Intensive pronouns are not necessary to understand the meaning of the sentence, so if you cross out an intensive pronoun, the sentence should still keep its meaning.

Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns draw **MORE** attention to the original noun or pronoun to **INTENSIFY** it.

Even Mr. Franco **HIMSELF** would think your room is **messy**. (It's funny and ironic because Mr. Franco is messy, so he has no business telling other people that their rooms are messy)

Even if you had an excuse note from the President **HIMSELF**, I would not let you miss next week's test.

(Using the intensive pronoun 'himself' emphasizes that there is no way I'd excuse you from the test)

My daughter washed the dishes **HERSELF**.

('Herself' emphasizes that it's a big deal that she did this without help)

Reflexive Pronouns

- A **reflexive pronoun** has its antecedent as the subject of the sentence.
- It completes the meaning of a sentence and generally cannot be left out.
 - Burton knows himself very well.
 - Did you teach yourself music?

The quick and dirty rule for reflexive pronouns

Think of a mirror...



What does a mirror do? It reflects.

When you look in a mirror, your reflection is ALWAYS THERE. It HAS TO BE...because you're not a vampire.

In the same way, REFLEXIVE pronouns HAVE TO BE in the sentence for the sentence to make sense.

Example:

Bill taught himself how to swim.

Remove “himself”

Bill taught how to swim.

The sentence no longer makes sense...or at least it doesn't have the same meaning as the original, so the “himself” **MUST** be there...like your reflection in the mirror.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN!



Example:

Aquaman himself taught Bill how to swim.

Remove “himself”

Aquaman taught Bill how to swim.

The sentence still means the same thing...we CAN remove “himself,” so it does NOT need to be there. It’s just hanging out to intensify the situation.

INTENSIVE PRONOUN!



A couple of warnings:

- Do not use reflexive and intensive pronoun forms in place of personal pronouns.
 - Ron and I repaired the lamp.
 - Ron and **myself** repaired the lamp. <-NONONO!!!
 - This is between you and me.
 - This is between you and **myself** <-ACK! NO!
- **Never** use **hissself** or **theirselves**. They are not words!