

Reflexive Pronouns: Overview

FORM:

		<u>By + reflexive pronoun</u>	
myself	ourselves	by myself	by ourselves
yourself	yourselves	by yourself	by yourselves
herself] themselves	by herself] by themselves
himself		by himself	
itself		by itself	

USE:

“**Reflexive pronouns**” demonstrate that the subject of a sentence is also the object of a sentence. This means that the subject, or the person or thing who performs the action is also the object, or the person or thing who receives the impact of the action. So, in the sentence, “*Ouch, I cut myself*”, the person who did the cutting, “I” also is the person who was cut.

“**Reflexive pronouns**” also act to reinforce or intensify the idea that the subject is the actor in a sentence. In “*John did it himself*”, “himself” gives extra emphasis to the idea that John did it. When “**by**” comes before a reflexive pronoun it means that someone did something alone, or without help. “*Christine did it by herself*”, means that only Christine did it.

EXAMPLES:

Mary hurt herself rollerblading.
Jack decided to fix the leaky pipe himself.
Danny went to Paris by himself.

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate REFLEXIVE PRONOUN or BY + REFLEXIVE PRONOUN.

1. After falling asleep in the sun, I was shocked when I saw _____ in the mirror.
2. The store employees told _____ that everything would be easier after the Christmas rush.
3. She bought _____ a little treat – a chocolate bar.
4. You people can do _____ a favour by finishing all your work today so that you can have the weekend off.
5. Jacques Myotte, the famous chef, was very embarrassed when he cut _____ while chopping onions on live TV.
6. A large black dog saved _____ by just getting out of the way of the oncoming truck.

Intermediate 2 – Exercise 22 – Reflexive Pronouns: Overview

7. “John, do you usually drive to work _____?”
8. “So, do you guys think you can move _____?”
9. “Let’s go away for the weekend _____. We can leave the kids with your mother!”
10. I think that Rob needs some time to think. He’s gone to the cottage to be _____.
11. I don’t like living _____; I’ve always had a roommate.
12. Sheila doesn’t want to carpool. She has a busy schedule and needs to drive _____.
13. Most of the employees are on the seventh floor, but the accounting department is _____ on the sixth.
14. The long distance runner told _____ that she would finish the marathon, and she did.
15. You can help _____ to prepare for retirement by saving as much money as you can.
16. We saved _____ a half hour of commuting time by leaving at 6:30 a.m.
17. Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel all _____.
18. Let’s not order pizza. We can cook _____.

Complete the following sentences with the appropriate REFLEXIVE PRONOUN or BY + REFLEXIVE PRONOUN.

1. When I was younger, I would get embarrassed by my mistakes. Now I am more relaxed and have found it is easier to laugh at_____.
2. Children need to learn to rely upon_____.
3. My father always told me to handle my problems_____ and not to expect others to solve them for me.
4. The little girl lost her teddy bear in the park. She tried to be brave, but at bedtime she cried_____ to sleep.
5. Juan lived a lonely life as a young boy. With no one to play with, he would often sit on the front steps talking to_____ or to an imaginary friend.
6. What delicious cheesecake, Catherine! Did you make this_____?
7. Whenever we have problems in life, we have to be careful not to waste too much time feeling sorry for_____.

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8. Alejandro wanted to be able to do something unusual, so he taught _____ to drink a glass of water while standing on his head.
9. Nobody can decide for me. I have to make a decision _____.
10. I cut _____ while I was chopping vegetables for the soup.
11. Gloria hates to stay _____ all day long.
12. Mark taught _____ French.
13. They should clean the room _____.
14. Be honest with _____ and do something about your situation.
15. If you told everyone a lie, you have to deal with it _____.
16. We decided to renovate the house _____ instead of paying someone to do the job.