

Reflexive Pronouns: Each Other

FORM:

EACH OTHER

USE:

“**Each other**” shows that the subject consists of two people or things who are doing the same thing to the other person, **but not to themselves**. For example, in the sentence, “*George and Karen don’t like each other*”, George doesn’t like Karen and Karen doesn’t like George, but this doesn’t tell us how George feels about himself or how Karen feels about herself.

Don’t confuse “**each other**” with the plural reflexive pronouns “**ourselves**”, “**yourselves**” and “**themselves**”. Remember that plural reflexive pronouns are used to demonstrate that a group of two or more people are doing something which has an impact on the people who are doing it. In contrast, “**each other**” is used when the impact is only on the other person, NOT the doer of the action.

EXAMPLES:

Joan and Amy help each other when there is a lot to do in the office.

Francis and Frank ran into each other at the theatre last night.

BUT

Let’s go get ourselves some lunch.

Joel and Dorothy bought themselves a new house.

Complete the following sentences by choosing either EACH OTHER, OURSELVES, YOURSELVES or THEMSELVES.

1. They are helping _____ by building a garage.
2. Kelly and Sharon bumped into _____ at the market yesterday.
3. They will have time to do it _____.
4. We are giving _____ a break by going out to lunch.
5. Jim and Tracey really love _____.
6. The first time that they saw _____ was when they were students.
7. You may not be doing _____ any good if you go on strike.

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8. They hurt _____ when they fell while hiking in the Rocky Mountains.
9. We will do _____ a lot of good if we get more sleep.
10. The two politicians attacked _____ in the press during the election.
11. The brothers love _____ very much.
12. What do you think? Should we give _____ one big gift for Christmas or should we give _____ individual gifts?
13. Ron and Kathy had given _____ a hard time for years, but recently they have made peace with _____ .
14. Let's help _____ by working together.
15. They write to _____ by e-mail almost every day.