

What Are Reflexive & Emphatic Pronouns?

Reflexive and emphatic pronouns are formed by adding the suffixes “self”(singular) and ‘selves” (plural) to simple pronouns.

Example:

My + self	= myself
Your + self	= yourself
Your + selves	= yourselves
Our + self	= ourself
Our + selves	= ourselves
It + self	= itself
Him + self	= himself
Her + self	= herself
Them + selves	= themselves

A **reflexive pronoun** is used when something does something to itself.
A reflexive pronoun is usually the object of a sentence

Example:

1. You lied to **yourself**.
2. You should not blame **yourself** for the loss.
3. Do not hit **yourself**.
4. They bought new shoes for **themselves**.

An **emphatic pronoun** is used to put emphasis on a particular noun or pronoun in a sentence.

Example:

1. John did his homework (object) by **himself**.
2. Mila baked the brownies (object) by **herself**.
3. I wrote this story (object) **myself**.
4. They painted their house (object) **themselves**.

Notes:

- An emphatic pronoun is not used as the object of a sentence.
- The meaning of a sentence won't change even if the emphatic pronoun is removed. On the other hand, if the reflexive pronoun is removed, the sentence will not make complete sense.

Fill in the blanks using suitable reflexive or emphatic pronouns.

1. You should be proud of _____.
2. You brought the punishment upon _____ by not listening to the warden.
3. He drove the car to the hospital by _____.
4. I laid the bed for the guests _____.
5. I fed _____ a hot soup.
6. We are proud of _____ for this achievement.
7. We built the tree house by _____.
8. The clock fell from the hook by _____.

Read each sentence carefully and mention whether the underlined word is a reflexive or emphatic pronoun.

1. I myself saw him steal the money.

2. We often deceive ourselves.

3. She did that herself.

4. I went to the store and bought it by myself.

5. Don't touch the broken glass. You will hurt yourself.

6. I will give myself three months to lose ten pounds.

7. Abigail herself was not aware of the plan.

8. The joker laughed at himself.
