

Reflexive Verbs

Now we come to a tricky point of grammar, the Reflexive Verb, called thus because the action of the verb is reflected back onto the **subject of the sentence: the doer of the action.**

e.g. In I wash **myself** the action is transferred not to someone or something else as usually happens, but to the person who actually does the action.

The Reflexive Pronoun can always be recognized by the ending **self**; here are the Reflexive Pronouns:

myself yourself himself, herself itself	ourselves yourselves themselves
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Other Tenses

In other tenses, the same rules apply to Reflexive Pronouns as to others, they usually follow the verb.

Examples

We were washing ourselves, we washed ourselves

In *Compound Verbs*, for example the *Present Perfect*, or the *Pluperfect*, the *Reflexive Pronoun* will follow not the *Auxiliary Verb* (have) but the *Past participle*:

She had hurt herself; we had not hurt ourselves

Each Other: One Another

In fact, the *Reflexive* in the form *myself*, *yourself* etc is not used nearly as much as the form called *Reciprocal*, which takes the form *each other*, *one another*.

Here the action is transferred not back to the subject but to the other person involved in a form of shared activity.

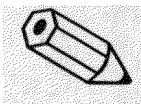
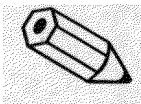
Examples

they love each other, we like one another

The great advantage of these *Reciprocal Pronouns* is they never change however the verb goes. There is only one condition for the use of a *Reciprocal Pronoun*; the Verb has to be plural as there will have to be more than one person involved...

e.g. We looked at each other;
they saw one another etc

In Activity Two that is to follow, we will combine the *Pluperfect* with *Reflexives* and *Reciprocals*. The Key as usual is after this lesson; the best of luck, but do have a look at the first Activity before you try this one:

Activity 2	Put the following sentences into the Present Tense:
	a) We had seen each other often this month b) Paul and Mary had loved one another c) Had you got yourself lost in that forest? d) The friends had found themselves all at sea! e) Every morning I had looked at myself in the mirror.
Activity 3	Make the following Verbs Reflexive or Reciprocal depending on which sounds best:
) Stephen and Johnnie looked at _____ angrily.) They don't even like _____) Mary is very clever: already she can dress _____) When I came out of the station, I found _____ in the middle of a strange place) Had Elizabeth and her sister looked at _____? No, they didn't have a mirror handy.