

Das Reflexivpronomen (-self, -selves)

[1] **Die Formen.** ACHTUNG: Im Plural enden die Reflexivpronomen alle auf **-ves**, im Singular auf **-f**!

SINGULAR – EINZAHL

I	<i>ich</i>	myself	<i>mich (selbst)</i>
you	<i>du</i>	yourself	<i>dich (selbst)</i>
he	<i>er</i>	himself	} <i>sich (selbst)</i>
she	<i>sie</i>	herself	
it	<i>es</i>	itself	

PLURAL – MEHRZAHL

we	<i>wir</i>	ourselves	<i>uns (selbst)</i>
you	<i>ihr</i>	yourselves	<i>euch (selbst)</i>
they	<i>sie</i>	themselves	<i>sich (selbst)</i>

[2] Verwendung

1. Wir benutzen das Reflexivpronomen, wenn eine Person etwas mit sich selbst macht:

I look after myself. – Ich passe auf mich auf.

The new teacher introduced herself to the class. – Die neue Lehrerin stellte sich der Klasse vor.

2. ... oder wenn man betonen möchte, dass jemand etwas selbst oder ohne Hilfe gemacht hat:

*I didn't buy this cake. I made it **myself** / **by myself**.* – Ich habe diesen Kuchen nicht gekauft. Ich habe ihn **selbst** / **ganz allein** gemacht.

*The Queen **herself** said so.* – Die Queen **selbst** hat es gesagt.

Bei Tätigkeiten, die man sowieso normalerweise selbst macht (wash, shave ...), kann das Reflexivpronomen wegfallen (a.). Man verwendet es nur, um zu betonen, dass jemand etwas selbst tut (b.).

a. *He washed and dressed.* – Er wusch sich und zog sich an.

b. *He washed and dressed himself, even though his arm was broken.* – Er wusch und zog sich (ohne Hilfe) an, obwohl sein Arm gebrochen war.

[3] Häufige reflexive Verben im Englischen sind:

to dry yourself	sich abtrocknen
to enjoy yourself	etwas genießen
to introduce yourself	sich vorstellen
to prepare yourself	sich vorbereiten
to teach yourself	sich selbst etwas beibringen

[4] Verben, die nur im Deutschen reflexiv sind

Manche Verben sind im Deutschen reflexiv, im Englischen aber nicht, z.B. *remember*.

Deutsch: Ich erinnere mich. **Englisch:** I remember.

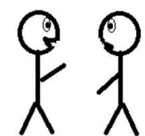
Diese Verben muss man auswendig lernen:

sich ändern	to change
sich beeilen	to hurry up
sich benehmen	to behave
sich beklagen	to complain
sich bewegen	to move
sich erinnern	to remember
sich entscheiden	to decide
sich entschuldigen	to apologize
sich entspannen	to relax
sich entwickeln	to develop
sich fragen	to wonder
sich freuen auf	to look forward to
sich fühlen	to feel
sich fürchten	to be afraid
sich hinlegen	to lie down
sich hinsetzen	to sit down
sich leihen	to borrow
sich leisten können	to afford
sich konzentrieren	to concentrate
sich öffnen	to open
sich rasieren (s. [3])	to shave
sich Sorgen machen	to worry
sich streiten	to quarrel, to argue
sich treffen	to meet
sich verändern	to change
sich verstecken	to hide
sich etwas vorstellen	to imagine
sich waschen (s. [3])	to wash
sich weigern	to refuse

[5] each other – einander



Im Deutschen kann *sich* auch *sich gegenseitig* bedeuten. Hier sagt man i.E. *each other* statt *themselves*.



A. Bob and Phil are looking at themselves (in the mirror). – Bob und Phil schauen (jeder) sich (selbst) an.

Bob sieht Bob an und Phil sieht Phil an – z.B. im Spiegel.

B. Bob and Phil are looking at each other. – Kate und Phil schauen sich an.

Bob sieht Phil an und Phil sieht Bob an.

EXERCISE 1 Fill in the correct reflexive pronoun: myself – yourself – himself – herself – itself – ourselves – yourselves – themselves.

Setze das richtige Reflexivpronomen ein: mich – dich – sich – uns – euch – sich.

- a) Sarah and Hannah can look after _____.
- b) I always have to do all the work by _____!
- c) Peter built the farmhouse _____.
- d) We enjoyed _____ at the swimming pool.
- e) Kate, please help _____!
- f) Mike and Bob, can you do this by _____ or do you need help?
- g) The children made the cake for their mum's birthday _____.
- h) Hannah taught _____ French.
- i) He got out of the shower and dried _____ with a clean towel.
- j) Nick's friends introduced _____ to his parents.
- k) We were preparing _____ for the game.
- l) I've invented this story _____.
- m) Get back to work, kids, the bathroom won't clean _____!
- n) They looked at _____ in the mirror.

EXERCISE 2 *Themselves* or *each other*? Fill in the right words.

Themselves oder each other? Setze die richtigen Wörter ein.

- a) Cats don't usually hurt _____ when they fall. They always land on their feet.
- b) Tim and Nicholas are a great team. They always help _____.
- c) The girls made these cookies by _____.
- d) Cats often wash _____ with their paws.
- e) Tim and Nicholas weren't allowed to sit next to each other in class because they would always talk to _____.
- f) In the evening, the two kids sat by the campfire, telling _____ scary stories.
- g) Nobody liked the film. The script writers _____ said that they weren't happy with how the story ended.
- h) On Christmas Day, people give _____ presents.
- i) Students, please work in groups. Try helping _____ before asking the teacher.
- j) The kids really enjoyed _____ at the amusement park. They had a great time.

EXERCISE 3 Circle the word that fits the gap. Sometimes you have to leave the gap empty.

Kreise das Wort ein, das in die Lücke passt. Manchmal musst du die Lücke leer lassen (-).

- a) Look, the squirrel¹ is cleaning **herself** / **itself** / **it**!
- b) The pupils were throwing paper balls at **himself** / **each other** / **themselves**.
- c) Peter designed this boat by **herself** / - / **himself**.
- d) I don't remember - / **myself** / **each other**.
- e) Your sister worries **himself** / **herself** / - a lot.
- f) The guests enjoyed **himself** / **themselves** / - at the party.
- g) After their shopping trip, Ruth and her friends showed **herself** / **themselves** / **each other** what they had bought.
- h) Grandma does all the repairs around the house by - / **herself** / **ourselves**.
- i) The workers decided **themselves** / **each other** / - to meet **themselves** / **each other** / - during their lunch break.
- j) Peter, did you teach **yourself** / - / **yourselves** to play the piano?

EXERCISE 4 Translate the sentences into English. Be careful: Sometimes you do not need a reflexive pronoun even though there is one in the German sentence!

Übersetze die Sätze ins Englische. Vorsicht: Manchmal brauchst du kein Relativpronomen, obwohl im deutschen Satz eins steht!

- a) Wir treffen uns um fünf Uhr.
- b) Ich kann mich nicht auf meine Hausaufgaben konzentrieren.
- c) Er fühlte sich schlecht.
- d) Du hast dich sehr verändert.
- e) Sie erinnerte sich nicht an ihren Großvater.
- f) Rita stellte sich den Eltern ihres Freundes vor.
- g) Bereite dich vor und dann entscheide dich!
- h) Bereitet euch vor und dann entscheidet euch!
- i) Kann ich mir deinen Radiergummi ausleihen?
- j) Dieses Bild habe ich selbst gemalt.
- k) Die Kinder versteckten sich unter dem Sofa.
- l) Ihr macht euch zu viele Sorgen.

¹ squirrel: Eichhörnchen

Lösungen:

EXERCISE 1 a) Sarah and Hannah can look after **themselves**.

b) I always have to do all the work by **myself**!

c) Peter built the farmhouse **himself**.

d) We enjoyed **ourselves** at the swimming pool.

e) Kate, please help **yourself**!

f) Mike and Bob, can you do this by **yourselves** or do you need help?

g) The children made the cake for their mum's birthday **themselves**.

h) Hannah taught **herself** French.

i) He got out of the shower and dried **himself** with a clean towel.

j) Nick's friends introduced **themselves** to his parents.

k) We were preparing **ourselves** for the game.

l) I've invented this story **myself**.

m) Get back to work, kids, the bathroom won't clean **itself**!

n) They looked at **themselves** in the mirror.

EXERCISE 2 a) Cats don't usually hurt **themselves** when they **fall**. They always land on their feet.

b) Tim and Nicholas are a great team. They always help **each other**.

c) The girls made these cookies by **themselves**.

d) Cats often wash **themselves** with their paws.

e) Tim and Nicholas weren't allowed to sit next to each other in class because they would always talk to **each other**.

f) In the evening, the two kids sat by the campfire, telling **each other** scary stories.

g) Nobody liked the film. The script writers **themselves** said that they weren't happy with how the story ended.

h) On Christmas Day, people give **each other** presents.

i) Students, please work in groups. Try helping **each other** before asking the teacher.

j) The kids really enjoyed **themselves** at the amusement park. They had a great time.

EXERCISE 3 a) Look, the squirrel² is cleaning **herself** / **itself** / **it**!

b) The pupils were throwing paper balls at **himself** / **each other** / **themselves**.

c) Peter designed this boat by **herself** / - / **himself**.

d) I don't remember **me** / **myself** / **each other**.

e) Your sister worries **himself** / **herself** / **me** a lot.

f) The guests enjoyed **himself** / **themselves** / - at the party.

g) After their shopping trip, Ruth and her friends showed **herself** / **themselves** / **each other** what they had bought.

h) Grandma does all the repairs around the house by - / **herself** / **ourselves**.

i) The workers decided **themselves** / **each other** / **me** to meet **themselves** / **each other** / - during their lunch break.

j) Peter, did you teach **yourself** / - / **yourselves** to play the piano?

EXERCISE 4 a) We meet at five o'clock. b) I can't concentrate on my homework. c) He felt bad. d) You have changed a lot. e) She didn't remember her grandfather. f) Rita introduced herself to her boyfriend's parents. g) Prepare yourself and decide! h) Prepare yourselves and decide! i) Can I borrow your rubber / eraser? j) I've painted this picture myself. k) The children hid under the sofa. l) You worry too much.

² squirrel: Eichhörnchen