

Chapter- 5

Reflexive and Emphatic Pronouns

STUDY NOTES

At a glance

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN

Reflexive pronouns are pronouns that we use when the subject and object in a sentence refer to the same person. Such sentences do not make complete sense without reflexive pronouns.

For ex: The young boy dreams of buying a plane for himself.

Myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves and themselves are reflexive pronouns.

1. Underline the reflexive pronoun in these sentences. Circle the subject they refer to.

a) He is teaching himself to play the piano.

b) My aunt busied herself in the kitchen.

c) We helped ourselves to the food.

d) We should behave ourselves in front of our elders.

e) You should not drive the car so fast. You will hurt yourself.

f) They patted themselves on the back for their extraordinary victory.

g) A house divided against itself cannot stand.

EMPHATIC PRONOUN

When reflexive pronouns are used to put emphasis on a particular noun, they are called Emphatic pronoun. The sentence makes complete sense even when the emphatic pronoun is removed.

He himself made the beautiful painting.

They **themselves** made the cookies.

2. Read the following sentences. Underline the emphatic pronoun and circle the subject it refers to.

a) I **myself** cancelled the tickets.

b) He **himself** feeds the birds.

c) The house **itself** is so big.

d) Swati **herself** planned the entire fashion show.

e) The cricket board members **themselves** contributed the money to fund the championship.

f) A calligrapher **himself** could not have written it more beautifully.

g) The facts **themselves** can be used to solve the crime.

3. Tick the type of pronoun used in the following sentences.

Sentences	Reflexive	Emphatic
I myself was not aware of the extra features of the new smartphone.		✓
We enjoyed ourselves at the party.	✓	
Do not go near the fire. You will burn yourself.	✓	
The thief himself admitted to his crime.		✓

She was in a hurry. So she paid the bill herself.	√	
I myself saw the big mountain collapse.		√

4. Write the correct pronoun in the following sentences. Write R for reflexive pronoun and E for emphatic pronoun.

- a) I gave **myself** plenty of time to repair the refrigerator. R
- b) We treated **ourselves** to burgers and cold drinks. R
- c) The boy hurt **himself** while jumping on the bed. E
- d) The organizers **themselves** made sure that everyone carries an entry ticket. E
- e) They can take care of the house **themselves**. R
- f) With the prize money, I can buy a new motorbike **myself**. E
- g) She **herself** gets confused when she gives the direction. E

5. Complete the conversation with appropriate reflexive or emphatic pronouns.

a) Harsh: Hey Simran! Why are you sitting all by **yourself**.

Simran: Hey Harsh! I was just looking at the sunset. It is beautiful!

Harsh: Did you forget that we have to plan Sneha's birthday party?

Simran: Oh, yes! Shall we plan it **ourselves** or ask our friends to join us?

Harsh: I think we should ask the entire circle of friends to plan the party together.

Simran: I **myself** will prepare a song to sing.

Harsh: We can ask others to help with the decoration.

Simran: Yes, they can do it **themselves**.

Harsh: What about the chips and the soft drinks?

Simran: We will decide on that among **ourselves**.

Harsh: Yes, we can do that.

6. Identify the errors and rewrite the sentences correctly.

b) My grandfather used to walk by **himself** before the accident.

c) They **themselves** got their coats dry-cleaned.

d) Sudha prepared **herself** by studying day and night.

e) We **ourselves** have to take responsibility for all mistakes.

f) The cat jumped on the roof by **itself**.

g) We can complete the entire project **ourselves**. We do not need to hire other people.

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