

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. E
- b) We treated **ourselves** to burgers and cold drinks. R
- c) The boy hurt **himself** while jumping on the bed. R
- d) The organizers **themselves** made sure that everyone carries an entry ticket. E
- e) They can take care of the house **themselves**. E
- 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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