

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

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I DID IT MYSELF! - Emphatic Use + Common Mistakes

Sometimes we use reflexive pronouns NOT because we need to, but to say "NO ONE helped me! I did it ALONE!"

Emphatic Use = For Surprise / Pride:

- I fixed the motorbike myself! (= No mechanic. Just me. Be impressed.)
- She cooked the whole dinner herself! (= No help.)
- We built this house ourselves!

You can put it at the end: I did it myself. OR after the subject: I myself did it. (End is more common at B1.)

PART 1: PRIDE OR NORMAL? - Read and Tick

Is it normal reflexive (need it) or emphatic (pride)?

1. I cut myself. - Normal / Emphatic
2. I cut my own hair myself! - Normal / Emphatic
3. She taught herself English. - Normal / Emphatic
4. She herself told me the news! - Normal / Emphatic (Surprise!)
5. We enjoyed ourselves. - Normal / Emphatic

Fix It - Write each other or themselves:

1. My parents met _____ in 2005 and got married.
2. The students helped _____ with homework. (They helped each other)
3. We took a photo of _____ at the park.
4. My brother and I don't talk to _____ anymore. (Sad!)

PART 2 - EACH OTHER vs OURSELVES - Don't Mix Them

This is the #1 B1 mistake. Learn the difference.

- Each other = 2 people do it to EACH OTHER. (A -> B, B -> A)
- Ourselves / Themselves = We do it to US.

Examples:

- We looked at each other and laughed. (I looked at you, you looked at me.)
- We looked at ourselves in the mirror. (I looked at me, you looked at you.)
- They love each other. (He loves her, she loves him.)
- They love themselves. (He loves himself - different meaning!)

PART 3: YOUR DIY STORY - Write and Speak

Write 4 sentences. Use 2 normal reflexives, 1 by myself, 1 emphatic myself.

Example: I taught myself to cook. I usually eat by myself. I hurt myself once with hot oil. But last week I cooked dinner for my family myself! Everyone was surprised.

1. I _____ myself.
2. I _____ by myself.
3. I _____ myself.
4. I did _____ myself!

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ANSWER KEY

Part 1: 1 Normal 2 Emphatic 3 Normal 4 Emphatic 5 Normal

Part 2: 1 each other 2 each other 3 ourselves 4 each other

Common Mistakes to Correct: Don't say "I enjoy myself very much" when you mean "I enjoy it" - at B1, teach "We enjoyed ourselves" is for parties/trips, not for every "I enjoy". Don't say "Myself is tired" - myself is never subject. Don't say "They love theirselves" - it's themselves.

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