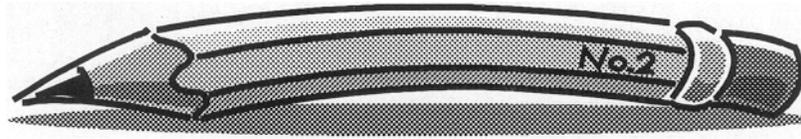


Your Name: _____



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Reflexive Pronouns

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Reflexive pronouns are the *-self* forms of pronouns:

RIGHT

Myself

Yourself

Himself

Herself

Itself

Ourselves

Yourselves

Themselves

Because English also has the personal pronouns *his* and *their*, some speakers extend the above system and use *hissself* and *theirselves*. Although it is easy to see why people do this, these forms are considered non-standard.

WRONG

He always bragged on *hissself*.

They gave the money to *theirselves*.

RIGHT

He always bragged on *himself*.

They gave the money to *themselves*.

OTHER MISTAKES

When speakers are trying to sound formal or respectful, they will sometimes use one of the reflexive pronouns when a plain pronoun would be better. For example:

WRONG

Jack will be traveling with Jenny and myself.

Dana loves being with Grandpa and yourself.

RIGHT

Jack will be traveling with Jenny and me.

Dana loves being with Grandpa and you.

Another mistake is to use a reflexive pronoun as the subject of a sentence.

WRONG

Yourself is hot stuff.

Herself is my favorite person.

RIGHT

You are hot stuff.

She is my favorite person.

Reflexive Pronouns as Intensifiers

A reflexive pronoun may be used immediately after another pronoun to emphasize or intensify the first pronoun, as long as both refer to the same person(s). For example,

I myself cooked this gourmet dinner. We ourselves must make these changes rather than depend on others.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Decide whether these sentences are correct or incorrect. Write correct by the ones that are acceptable; rewrite the others so that they are in standard English.

1. The policeman shot himself accidentally. _____
2. They aimed the insult at both herself and others. _____
3. Danny and myself will be the lead speakers. _____
4. They promised to give shots to theirselves. _____
5. I myself should take responsibility. _____
6. They don't trust themselves to do the job right. _____
7. He gave hissself a haircut. _____
8. The intersection itself is to blame. _____

Answers. 1. Correct, 2. They aimed the insult at both her and others. 3. Danny and I will be the lead speakers. 4. They promised to give shots to themselves. 5. Correct, 6. Correct, 7. He gave himself a haircut. 8. Correct

Now, to help you remember the acceptable forms of reflexive pronouns, write a grammatically correct sentence using each of the following:

1. Myself _____
2. Yourself _____
3. Himself _____
4. Herself _____
5. Itself _____
6. Ourselves _____
7. Yourselves _____
8. Themselves _____

