

Special Cases for Reflexive Pronouns

Point 1: Reflexive pronouns can be emphatic pronouns which are extra pronouns that are not essential but add emphasis.

1. I made the computer with no help.
2. I made the computer (all by) myself. (Emphasizes no help)
3. You can learn how to do it.
4. You can learn how to do it yourself. (Emphasizes no help)

Point 2: If a reflexive pronoun is not needed, then it is emphatic. If it is needed, then it is a normal reflexive pronoun.

1. I often talk to myself. (normal reflexive pronoun)
2. I bought it myself. (emphatic pronoun)
3. He hates seeing himself in the mirror. (normal reflexive pronoun)
4. He gave it to her himself. (emphatic pronoun)

Point 3: Reflexive pronouns can appear in prepositional phrases.

1. I live by myself.
2. Don't be hard on yourself.
3. It pays for itself.
4. I try not to talk about myself.

Point 4: There are many common phrases using reflexive pronouns.

1. Help yourself. (Free to have something)
2. They can't help themselves. (Have no self-control)
3. Don't be hard on yourself. (Do not be overly critical)
4. It pays for itself. (The savings cover the cost)

Emphatic Pronouns

Read and listen to four conversations using the grammar.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Wow, big box. What did you buy?

Woman: I bought *myself* a new computer.

Man: Nice. What kind?

Woman: I got a new Mac.

Man: Oh, cool. That must've been expensive.

Woman: A little, but I needed a new one.

Man: Yeah. I've been thinking of getting a new one *myself*.

Woman: You should. I find a new computer pays for *itself* because it makes you much more productive.

Man: True. Can't argue with that.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Why are you so down?

Woman: I did not get a promotion from the boss.

Man: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Woman: I don't think he likes me.

Man: Oh, I'm sure he likes you. Don't be so hard on *yourself*.

Woman: Yeah, you're right.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Man, these cookies smell so good.

Woman: Please try some.

Man: Oh, they look so good.

Woman: You better eat some before the kids get home.

Man: Why? Will they eat them all?

Woman: Yeah, they can't help *themselves*.

Man: Well, I can see why. Your cookies are so good. Can I have two?

Woman: Help *yourself*.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: I like your shirt.

Woman: Thanks. I made it *myself*.

Man: Really? I didn't know you sew.

Woman: I do. I make a lot of my own clothes.

Man: That is so cool.

Woman: It's easy. You should try it sometime.

Man: I would if you could teach me.

Woman: Oh, you don't need me. You can learn how to do it *yourself* by watching videos online.

Man: Okay. I'll think about it. Thanks.

Quiz

Answer these questions about the interview.

1) A new computer pays for itself because ____ .

a) it is on sale

b) it increases productivity

2) The woman should not be hard on _____ .

a) her boss

b) herself

3) Why does the woman mean when she says the kids cannot help themselves?

a) They eat all the cookies.

b) They cannot have any cookies.

4) What does the woman suggest?

a) He makes it himself.

b) They do it themselves.

Gap Fill: Listen to the audio. Type in the correct word!

Conversation 1

Man: Wow, big box. What did you **buybought**?

Woman: I bought **itselfmyself** a new computer.

Man: Nice. What **kindkinds**?

Woman: I **gotget** a new Mac.

Man: Oh, cool. That must've been **expensiveexpansive**.

Woman: A little, but I **needingneeded** a new one.

Man: Yeah. I've been thinking of getting a new one **yourselfmyself**.

Woman: You should. I find a new computer pays for **itselfmyself** because it makes you much more **productiveproduction**.

Man: True. Can't argue with **thatit**.

Conversation 2

Man: Why are you so **downbehind**?

Woman: I did not get a **promotepromotion** from the boss.

Man: Oh, I'm sorry to **hearheard** that.

Woman: I don't think he likes **myselfme**.

Man: Oh, I'm sure he likes **youyourself**. Don't be so hard on **youyourself**.

Woman: Yeah, you're **wrongright**.

Conversation 3

Man: Man, these cookies smell so **goodsgood**.

Woman: Please try **someany**.

Man: Oh, they **lookinglook** so good.

Woman: You better eat some before the kids get **homehouse**.

Man: Why? Will they eat them **anyall**?

Woman: Yeah, they can't help **themthemselves**.

Man: Well, I can see **howwhy**. Your cookies are so good. Can I have **twotoo**?

Woman: Help **yourselfyou**.

Conversation 4

Man: I like your **shirtshirt**.

Woman: Thanks. I made it **itselfmyself**.

Man: Really? I didn't know you **sewso**.

Woman: I do. I make a lot of my own **clothclothes**.

Man: That is so **coldcool**.

Woman: It's easy. You should try it **sometimemyself**.

Man: I would if you could teach **memyself**.

Woman: Oh, you don't need **memyself**. You can learn how to do it **youyourself** by watching videos online.

Man: Okay. I'll think **aboutover** it. Thanks.

Advanced Driving Vocabulary

Road rage

Aggressive or angry behavior by a driver towards other drivers or pedestrians.

“The driver exhibited road rage after being cut off in traffic.”

DUI

The act of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. DUI stands for ‘Driving Under the Influence’.

“The police arrested Sherry for DUI after she failed the breathalyzer test.”

To get pulled over

To be stopped by the police while driving.

“I got pulled over last night for not using the turn signal.”

Bumper-to-bumper traffic

Heavy traffic congestion.

“There’s bumper-to-bumper traffic here in Millarville, so I’ll be a little late.”

Bottleneck

Bumper-to-bumper traffic due to reduced traffic lanes.

“I apologize I am running late. I’m on my way but in a bottleneck due to some construction work.”