

Reflexive vs. Intensive Pronouns: Ancient Egypt



A **reflexive** pronoun *reflects* back on the subject or main noun of a sentence. If a reflexive pronoun is removed from a sentence, the sentence won't make sense.

Example: Emma was proud of **herself** for finishing her math homework.

*The reflexive pronoun **herself** refers back to the noun Emma.*

An **intensive** pronoun emphasizes the subject or main noun of a sentence by adding *intensity*. If an intensive pronoun is removed, the sentence will still make sense.

Example: Miguel worked alone to finish his science fair project **himself**.

*The intensive pronoun **himself** emphasizes the noun Miguel.*

Directions: Read the sentences below, and decide if the bold pronoun is **reflexive** or **intensive**. Write your answers on the lines.

1. Ancient Egypt was a civilization built along the Nile River in Africa around 3000 B.C.E. The Nile **itself** provided necessities like food, water, and transportation. intensive
2. Ancient Egyptians made artwork that showed **themselves** in everyday life. reflexive
3. Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids **themselves** using engineering skills. intensive
4. Pharaohs were the rulers of ancient Egypt. When a pharaoh passed away, he would have **himself** buried in a pyramid or tomb with treasure. reflexive
5. One pharaoh, Cleopatra VII, started to rule by **herself** at eighteen years old. reflexive
6. Cleopatra's siblings wanted to rule Egypt **themselves**, so she formed an alliance with Rome to strengthen her power. intensive
7. Cleopatra had a child with the ruler of ancient Rome, Julius Caesar. He named their son after **himself**, and their child was known as Caesarion or "little Caesar." reflexive
8. At just three years old, Caesarion **himself** became co-ruler of Egypt. intensive
9. Egypt **itself** has been ruled by many different powers throughout history. intensive
10. Egyptians gained full independence for **themselves** in 1953. reflexive