

Reflexive or Intensive Pronoun?

Reflexive and intensive pronouns have identical forms but serve different functions in a sentence.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Singular: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself

Plural: ourselves, yourselves, themselves

Reflexive pronouns reflect the subject of the sentence. Use reflexive pronouns when the subject and the object are the same. If you remove a reflexive pronoun from a sentence, the sentence would no longer make sense.

My little sister watched **herself** in the mirror.

Intensive pronouns are used solely for emphasis. You could remove an intensive pronoun from a sentence, and the sentence would still make sense.

Chloe made the triple-layered cake **herself**.



Directions: Read the sentences below, and decide whether the pronoun in bold is reflexive or intensive.

- The mayor **herself** addressed the students. reflexive / intensive
- Did Jayden injure **himself** when he fell off his skateboard? reflexive / intensive
- Although our parents offered to help, we wanted to build it **ourselves**. reflexive / intensive
- You may surprise **yourself** with what you can do. reflexive / intensive
- Makayla treated **herself** to a large ice cream sundae with three different toppings. reflexive / intensive
- The governor **himself** will give the award to the principal of the year. reflexive / intensive
- The flying squirrel launches **itself** from a high branch to glide to the next tree. reflexive / intensive
- I **myself** think school dress codes are a great idea. reflexive / intensive
- You have to earn the money **yourself**. reflexive / intensive
- I imagine **myself** as a famous film director in the future. reflexive / intensive
- The three friends often found **themselves** in the most unlikely situations. reflexive / intensive
- Caleb helped **himself** to the free books in the library's giveaway bin. reflexive / intensive
- Could you and the team schedule soccer practices **yourselves**? reflexive / intensive
- Although the rehearsals were rocky, the show **itself** went quite smoothly. reflexive / intensive
- The submarine robots explored the ocean floor **themselves**. reflexive / intensive