

# Myself/yourself/themselves, etc.

**A**

Study this example:

Steve cut himself while he was shaving this morning.

We use *myself/yourself/himself, etc.* (*reflexive pronouns*) when the *subject* and *object* are the same:

*subject* → Steve cut himself . ← *object*



The reflexive pronouns are:

<i>singular:</i>	myself	yourself ( <i>one person</i> )	himself/herself/itself
<i>plural:</i>	ourselves	yourselves ( <i>more than one person</i> )	themselves

- I don't want you to pay for me. I'll pay for myself. (*not* I'll pay for me)
- Julie had a great vacation. She enjoyed herself very much.
- (*said to one person*) Do you sometimes talk to yourself?
- (*said to more than one person*) If you want more to eat, help yourselves.

Compare:

- It's not our fault. You can't blame us.
- It's our own fault. We should blame ourselves.

Note that we do not use *myself/yourself, etc.*, after *bring/take something with . . .*:

- It might rain. I'll take an umbrella with me. (*not* with myself)

**B**

We do not use *myself, etc.*, after *concentrate/feel/relax/meet*:

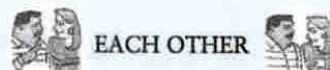
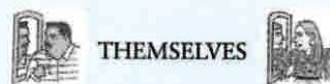
- You have to try and concentrate. (*not* concentrate yourself)
- "Do you feel nervous?" "Yes, I can't relax."
- What time should we meet? (*not* meet ourselves, *not* meet us)

**C**

Study the difference between *-selves* and *each other*:

- Tom and Ann stood in front of the mirror and looked at themselves. (= Tom and Ann looked at Tom and Ann.)

*but* ■ Tom looked at Ann; Ann looked at Tom. They looked at each other.



You can use *one another* instead of *each other*:

- How long have you and Bill known one another? (*or* known each other)
- Sue and Ann don't like each other. (*or* don't like one another)

**D**

We also use *myself/yourself, etc.*, in another way. For example:

- "Who repaired your bicycle for you?" "Nobody. I repaired it myself."

I repaired it myself = I repaired it, not anybody else. Here, *myself* is used to emphasize I (it makes it stronger). Some more examples:

- I'm not going to do it for you. You can do it yourself.
- Let's paint the house ourselves. It will be much cheaper.
- The movie itself wasn't very good, but I liked the music.
- I don't think Sue will get the job. Sue herself doesn't think she'll get it. (*or* Sue doesn't think she'll get it herself.)

# Exercises

**79.1** Complete each sentence using *myself/yourself, etc.*, with one of these verbs in the correct form: blame burn cut enjoy express hurt put

1. Steve cut himself while he was shaving this morning.
2. Bill fell down some steps, but fortunately he didn't \_\_\_\_\_ badly.
3. It isn't her fault. She really shouldn't \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Please try and understand how I feel. \_\_\_\_\_ in my position.
5. They had a great time. They really \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Be careful! That pan is very hot. Don't \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Sometimes I can't say exactly what I mean. I wish I could \_\_\_\_\_ better.

**79.2** Put in *myself/yourself, etc.*, or *me/you/us, etc.*

1. Julie had a great vacation. She enjoyed herself.
2. It's not my fault. You can't blame \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What I did was wrong. I'm ashamed of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We've got a problem. I hope you can help \_\_\_\_\_.
5. "Can I have another cookie?" "Of course. Help \_\_\_\_\_!"
6. Take some money with \_\_\_\_\_ in case you need it.
7. Don't worry about Tom and me. We can take care of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I gave them a key to our house so that they could let \_\_\_\_\_ in.
9. When they come to visit us, they always bring their dog with \_\_\_\_\_.

**79.3** Complete these sentences. Use *myself/yourself, etc.*, only where necessary. Use one of these verbs in the correct form: concentrate defend dry feel meet relax

1. I was sick yesterday, but I feel much better today.
2. She climbed out of the swimming pool and \_\_\_\_\_ with a towel.
3. I tried to study, but I just couldn't \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If somebody attacks you, you need to be able to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I'm going out with Chris tonight. We're \_\_\_\_\_ at the movies at 7:30.
6. You're always rushing around. Why don't you sit down and \_\_\_\_\_?

**79.4** Complete the sentences with *-selves* or *each other*.

1. How long have you and Bill known each other \_\_\_\_\_?
2. If people work too hard, they can make \_\_\_\_\_ sick.
3. I need you and you need me. We need \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In the U.S. friends often give \_\_\_\_\_ presents at Christmas.
5. Some people are very selfish. They think only of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We couldn't get back into the house. We had locked \_\_\_\_\_ out.
7. They've had an argument. They're not speaking to \_\_\_\_\_ at the moment.
8. We'd never met before, so we introduced \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**79.5** Complete the answers to the questions using *myself/yourself/itself, etc.*

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Who repaired the bicycle for you?            | Nobody. I <u>repaired it myself</u> . |
| 2. Did Brian have his hair cut by a barber?     | No, he cut _____.                     |
| 3. Do you want me to mail that letter for you?  | No, I'll _____.                       |
| 4. Who told you that Linda was getting married? | Linda _____.                          |
| 5. Can you call John for me?                    | Why can't you _____?                  |