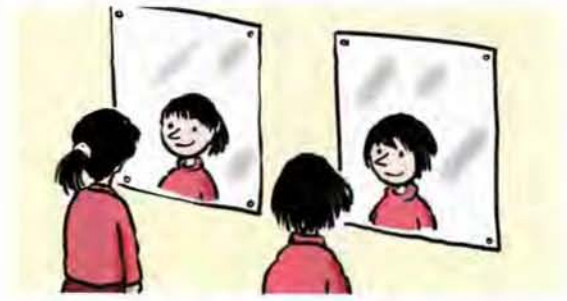


9 Reflexive and other pronouns



1 Alice and Imogen are looking at **each other**.



2 Alice and Imogen are looking at **themselves**.

1 Reflexive pronouns

Compare the form and use of object pronouns and reflexive pronouns:

OBJECT/REFLEXIVE	<i>me/myself</i>	<i>you/yourself</i>	<i>him/himself</i>	<i>her/herself</i>	<i>it/itself</i>
	<i>us/ourselves</i>	<i>you/yourselfs</i>	<i>them/themselves</i>		

*Her name is Christine but **her** friends call **her** Tina.* (*her* = object pronoun)

*Her name is Christine but **she** calls **herself** Tina.* (*herself* = reflexive pronoun)

We use reflexive pronouns (*myself, yourself, etc.*) when the subject and object of a sentence are the same person or thing: *Have **you** hurt **yourself**?*

We can also use reflexive pronouns to emphasise the subject of the sentence:

*Why do I have to do everything **myself**? Dentists use this toothpaste **themselves**.*

By myself/himself, etc. means 'alone/on your own' or 'without help':

*'Do you live **by yourself**?' 'No, I share a flat.'* *The children did the drawing **by themselves**.*

2 Verbs with reflexive pronouns

Some verbs are often used with reflexive pronouns, for example:

*They didn't **enjoy themselves** on the activity holiday – it was hard work!*

***Help yourself** to some food – there's plenty of it!*

*Did the children **behave themselves** at the zoo?*

*I **blame myself** for the mistakes in the report – I didn't check it carefully.*

⚠ *Complain, feel, remember, rest, relax, get up and stand up do not have a reflexive pronoun:*

*✗ Do you **remember yourself** the hotel? ✓ Do you **remember** the hotel?*

But we can use a reflexive with *wash, shave* and *dress* if the situation is unusual:

*✓ After my operation I couldn't **dress myself** for three weeks.*

3 each other, one another

We use *each other* and *one another* when the subject and object are different:

*Alice and Imogen are looking at **each other/one another**.*

(= Alice is looking at Imogen and Imogen is looking at Alice.)

Compare: *Alice and Imogen are looking at **themselves**.*

(= Alice is looking at Alice and Imogen is looking at Imogen.)

4 you, one and they

We often use *you* for people in general: ***You** can't park here after 8.30 in the morning.*

We can also use *one* but it is very formal: ***One** needs to be careful when travelling alone.*

We often use *they* for the people in government or in charge of organisations:

***They're** putting taxes up again. **They** closed the factory in 2008.*

We also use *they* to talk about someone when we don't know who he or she is.

*Someone left this note for you, but **they** didn't leave **their** name.*