

29. Reflexive Verbs

There are some verbs in Spanish that are called Reflexive Verbs. They can be used in all verb tenses. There are three basic reasons why these verbs are considered to be Reflexive:

1. The person doing the action of the verb is affected by that same action. In other words, the person is doing the action to oneself.

Examples:

lavar = to wash the dishes, car, etc... lavarse = to wash yourself

sentar (ie) = to seat a child etc.. sentarse (ie) is to seat oneself

2. Two or more people are doing a reciprocal action to each other.

Example:

Comprender = comprehend job, language, etc... comprenderse= understand each other

Besar= to kiss the baby, picture, etc... Besarse= to kiss each other

3. Sometimes, a verb in Spanish has 2 different meanings, one is assigned to be a regular verb and the other is assigned to be reflexive.

Examples:

Ir = to go

irse= to go away, leave

Comer = to eat

comerse= to devour

Reflexive Verbs need to have 2 words when they are conjugated, 1- a Reflexive Pronouns and 2 the Verb conjugated in the appropriate tense. (Reflexive Verbs work in all verb tenses)

Myself = me	Ourselves = nos
Yourself = te	Yourselves (Spain) = os
Himself = se Herself = se Yourself (Ud.) = se Itself = se	Themselves = se Yourselves (not Spain) = se

When the verbs are conjugated the Reflexive Pronoun goes before the verb.

Examples: Present Tense

me lavo	nos lavamos
te lavas	os laváis
se lava	se lavan

Examples: Preterit Tense

me bañé	nos bañamos
te bañaste	os bañasteis
se bañó	se bañaron

Examples: Imperfect Tense:

me sentaba	nos sentábamos
te sentabas	os sentabais
se sentaba	se sentaban

Example for Reflexive Pronouns with Infinitives:

Yo quiero levantarme	Nosotros queremos levantarnos
Tú quieres levantarte	Vosotros queréis levantaros
Ella quiere levantarse	Ellos quieren levantarse

Act. 1: Write the correct Reflexive Pronoun according to the verb endings!

1 yo asusto	16 yo sentaré
2 tú callas	17 tú reirás
3 él desayuna	18 usted burlará
4 nosotros enfadamos	19 tú y yo alajaremos
5 ellos enojan	20 ellos callarán
6 yo equivoque	21 yo iría

7 tú	fuiste	22 tú	divertirías
8 ella	marchó	23 él	dormirían
9 nosotras	levantamos	24 nosotros	despediríamos
10 ellas	pasearon	25 ellas	acostarían
11 yo	peinaba	26 yo	estoy olvidando
12 tú	ponías	27tú	estás presentando
13 (it)	quedaba	28 ella	está vistiendo
14 nosotros	quejábamos	29 nosotras	estamos poniendo
15 ustedes	quitaban	30 ellos	están casando

Act. 2: Conjugate the following Reflexive Verbs in the Present Tense (1-10) and in the Imperfect Tense (11-20. You will need two words!

1 yo llamarse	11 yo unirse
2 tú ocuparse	12 tú atreverse
3 ella ponerse triste	13 usted sorprenderse
4 nosotros equivocarse	14 nosotros hacerse
5 ellos quejarse	15 ustedes ducharse
6 yo alegrarse	16 yo mirarse
7 tú quitarse	17 tú bañar
8 ella quedarse	18 (it) comerse
9 nosotras despedirse	19 tú y yo enojarse
10 ellas acostarse (ue)	20 ellos comprenders