

# REFLEXIVE VERBS

Reflexive verbs show that one is performing the action on **oneself**. In addition to showing that one is doing something to oneself, reflexive verbs are often used in the following circumstances;

## 1. To show emphasis

Example;

Who took it?

John took it!

## 2. Impersonally

(placing the blame on the object or purposefully avoiding naming someone)

Examples;

The key was lost.

Rice sold here.

It is said that...

## 3. With Intransitive verbs

(Verbs that cannot have a direct object)

Examples;

The train arrived late.

We went to the store.

You can tell if an unconjugated verb is reflexive because it adds **se** to the end. Note that many verbs have both reflexive and normal forms. For example;

**Bañar – to bathe someone**      **Bañarse – to take a bath**

To conjugate a reflexive verb, remove the ending including the 'se' and add the usual subject ending to the verb. Then **place a reflexive pronoun in front of the verb**. The reflexive pronouns are:

Reflexive Pronouns			
myself	<b>me</b>	ourselves	<b>nos</b>
yourself	<b>te</b>	yourselves	<b>os</b>
himself, herself, yourself	<b>se</b>	themselves, yourselves	<b>se</b>

Example; **Peinarse – to comb oneself**

Yo	Me peino	Nosotros	Nos peinamos
Tú	Te peinas	Vosotros	Os peináis
Él / Ella Usted	Se peina	Ellos / Ellas Ustedes	Se peinan

Some verbs are always reflexive like;

atreverse – to dare

jactarse – to boast

arrepentirse – to repent (e>ie)

Some verbs change meaning when made reflexive. For example;

ir – to go

volver – to return (o>ue)

poner – to put

irse – to leave

volverse – to turn around

ponerse – to put on

When there are 2 verbs together, place the reflexive pronoun **before both verbs, never in between**. However, this sentence structure also provides you with an alternative possibility. You may also attach the reflexive pronoun to the end of the second verb.

Examples;

Yo **me** quiero bañar.      Ellos **se** van a divertir.

Yo quiero bañar**me**.      Ellos van a divertir**se**.

When this occurs with the present progressive, **you must add an accent if you attach it**.

Examples;

Yo estoy despertándome.

Yo estoy vistíendome.