

reflexive and intensive pronouns practice

Reflexive and intensive pronouns practice is essential for mastering English grammar. Understanding these types of pronouns can significantly enhance both your writing and speaking skills. Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and the object of a sentence are the same, while intensive pronouns emphasize a noun or another pronoun. In this article, we will explore the definitions, usages, examples, and practical exercises to help you gain confidence in using reflexive and intensive pronouns.

Understanding Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are pronouns that reflect back to the subject of the sentence. They are formed by adding “-self” or “-selves” to certain pronouns. The common reflexive pronouns include:

- Myself
- Yourself
- Himself
- Herself
- Itself
- Ourselves
- Yourselves
- Themselves

Usage of Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used in several contexts:

1. To indicate that the subject performs an action on itself:
 - Example: She made herself a cup of coffee.
2. To emphasize the subject:
 - Example: I completed the project by myself.
3. In certain expressions:
 - Example: He found himself in a difficult situation.

Examples of Reflexive Pronouns in Sentences

- I taught myself how to play the guitar.
- They enjoyed themselves at the party.
- We need to prepare ourselves for the upcoming challenges.

Understanding Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns are used to emphasize another noun or pronoun. While they look identical to reflexive pronouns, their function is different. The intensive pronouns include the same list as reflexive pronouns:

- Myself
- Yourself
- Himself
- Herself
- Itself
- Ourselves
- Yourselves
- Themselves

Usage of Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns are primarily used for emphasis and do not change the meaning of the sentence. Here are some key points regarding their use:

1. To emphasize a noun or pronoun:
 - Example: I myself don't believe in that theory.
2. To add emphasis for clarity:
 - Example: The team itself was surprised by the outcome.
3. In sentences where the identity of the subject is stressed:
 - Example: She herself organized the entire event.

Examples of Intensive Pronouns in Sentences

- He built the shed himself.
- They decided to go on vacation by themselves.
- You, yourself, should try to solve the problem.

Key Differences Between Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Understanding the differences between reflexive and intensive pronouns is crucial. Here's a concise comparison:

Reflexive Pronouns	Intensive Pronouns
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Reflects back to the subject	Emphasizes a noun or pronoun
Necessary for the sentence's meaning	Not necessary for the sentence's meaning
Example: She cut herself while cooking	Example: She herself cut the cake.

Practical Exercises for Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

To reinforce your understanding, practice is vital. Here are some exercises to help you differentiate between reflexive and intensive pronouns.

Exercise 1: Identify the Pronoun

Read the following sentences and identify whether the pronoun used is reflexive or intensive.

1. I completed the assignment myself.
2. She looked at herself in the mirror.
3. They enjoyed themselves at the concert.
4. You should treat yourself to something nice.
5. The president himself attended the meeting.

Answers:

1. Intensive
2. Reflexive
3. Reflexive
4. Reflexive
5. Intensive

Exercise 2: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using the appropriate reflexive or intensive pronoun.

1. He fixed the car all by _____.
2. The cat washed _____ after eating.
3. I will handle this project _____.
4. The students themselves were surprised by the results.
5. She can do it _____ without any help.

Answers:

1. himself
2. itself
3. myself
4. (Already complete)
5. herself

Exercise 3: Rewrite the Sentences

Rewrite the following sentences by replacing the underlined words with appropriate reflexive or intensive pronouns.

1. John decided to finish the project without any help.
2. The teacher explained the rules of the game.
3. The kids had fun at the park.

Answers:

1. John himself decided to finish the project without any help.
2. The teacher herself explained the rules of the game.
3. The kids enjoyed themselves at the park.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

When using reflexive and intensive pronouns, it's easy to make mistakes. Here are some common errors and how to avoid them:

1. Using reflexive pronouns incorrectly:
 - Incorrect: She gave the book to myself.
 - Correct: She gave the book to me.
2. Confusing reflexive and intensive pronouns:
 - Incorrect: I did it myself. (If not emphasizing)
 - Correct: I did it.
3. Overusing intensive pronouns:
 - Incorrect: She herself is a talented artist herself.
 - Correct: She herself is a talented artist.

Conclusion

Mastering the use of reflexive and intensive pronouns practice is an important step in enhancing your English language skills. Reflexive pronouns are necessary for indicating that the subject performs an action on itself, while intensive pronouns serve to emphasize a noun or pronoun. Through understanding their definitions, usages, examples, and practicing through exercises, you can significantly improve your command over these pronouns. Regular practice and careful attention to the context will help you avoid common mistakes, making your communication clearer and more effective.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a reflexive pronoun?

A reflexive pronoun is a pronoun that refers back to the subject of the sentence, indicating that the subject performs an action on itself. Examples include 'myself', 'yourself', 'himself', 'herself', 'itself', 'ourselves', and 'themselves'.

What is an intensive pronoun?

An intensive pronoun emphasizes a noun or another pronoun in the sentence. Intensive pronouns have the same form as reflexive pronouns, such as 'myself', 'yourself', 'himself', 'herself', 'itself', 'ourselves', and 'themselves', but they do not reflect back to the subject.

How do you distinguish between reflexive and intensive pronouns?

Reflexive pronouns are necessary to the meaning of the sentence, while intensive pronouns add emphasis and can be removed without changing the sentence's meaning.

Can you give an example of a sentence using a reflexive pronoun?

Sure! 'She taught herself how to play the piano.' Here, 'herself' is a reflexive pronoun referring back to 'she'.

Can you give an example of a sentence using an intensive pronoun?

Certainly! 'I myself will handle the presentation.' In this case, 'myself' is an intensive pronoun emphasizing 'I'.

Are reflexive and intensive pronouns interchangeable?

No, they are not interchangeable. Reflexive pronouns are necessary for the sentence to make sense, while intensive pronouns merely provide emphasis.

What are some common mistakes when using reflexive and intensive pronouns?

Common mistakes include using reflexive pronouns incorrectly in place of intensive pronouns or omitting necessary reflexive pronouns in sentences.

Can you identify the reflexive pronoun in the sentence: 'They enjoyed themselves at the party'?

'Themselves' is the reflexive pronoun in this sentence, as it refers back to 'they'.

How can I practice using reflexive and intensive pronouns?

You can practice by writing sentences that use both types of pronouns, identifying them in reading materials, or completing online exercises focused on pronouns.

What is the role of reflexive pronouns in a sentence?

Reflexive pronouns serve to indicate that the subject and the object of the sentence are the same, showing that the action is being done to the subject itself.

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