Reflexive Verbs

Reflexive verbs are verbs where the person who is doing the action is performing the action upon him/her own self. Ways to think about it: my hand brushes my own teeth, my eyes wake up my own body, my legs stretch out my own muscles, and my hand puts make up on my own face.

In Spanish reflexive verbs are just like regular verbs: drop the –ar/-er/-ir and add the correct ending. However, they have one more step. They ***require a reflexive pronoun to be placed before the verb to indicate the action is being done to one’s self***.

Reflexive Pronouns Meaning

Me myself (yo)

Te yourself (tú)

Se himself (él), herself (ella), yourself (Ud.)

Nos ourselves (nosotros/nosotras)

Os yourselves (vosotros/vosotras—in Spain)

Se themselves (ellos/ellas), yourselves (Uds.)

Example: lavarse

Yo me lavo: I wash myself

Tú te lavas: you wash yourself

Ėl se lava: he washes himself

Ella se lava: she washes herself

Ud. se lava: you wash yourself

Nosotros/nosotras nos lavamos: we wash ourselves

Vosotros/vosotras os laváis: you all wash yourselves (in Spain)

Ellos/ellas se lavan: they wash themselves

Uds. se lavan: you all wash yourselves

**Reflexive vs. non-reflexive: Compare the following sentences.**

Yo me lavo la cara. Yo lavo los platos.

Ella se seca el pelo. Ella seca al perro.

Antonio se levanta temprano. Antonio levanta a su hermano.

Uds. se bañan. Uds. bañan a los bebés.

Conjugate and translate the following reflexive verbs in your notebook:

Part I

1. Lavarse
2. Peinarse
3. Maquillarse
4. Afeitarse
5. Levantarse
6. Estirarse
7. Entrenarse

Part II

1. Quitarse-to take off of one’s self
2. Bañarse-to bathe one’s self
3. Secarse-to dry one’s self

Stem-Changers

1. Despert**ar**se (e🡪ie)-to wake one’s self
2. Acost**ar**se (o🡪ue)-to put one’s self to bed
3. Manten**er**se (e🡪ie)-to keep one’s self
4. Vest**ir**se (e🡪i)-to dress one’s self