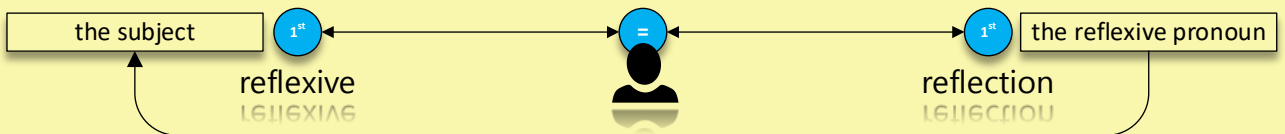




the Reflexive Pronouns



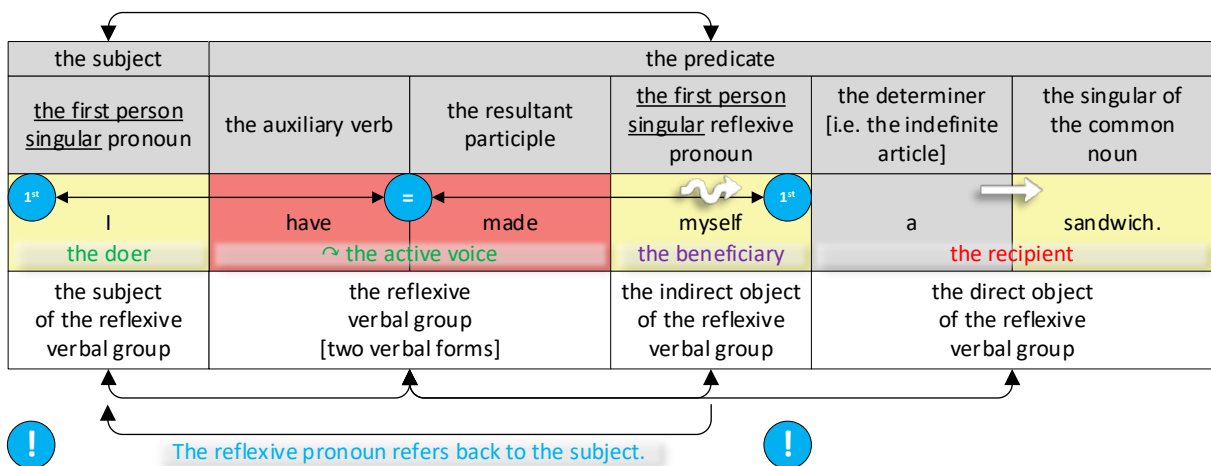
the Reflexive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun is a pronoun that refers back to the subject of the same clause. When the reflexive pronouns are in the singular form, they end in '-self', i.e. 'myself', 'yourself', 'himself', 'herself', 'itself', or 'oneself'; and when the reflexive pronouns are in the plural form, they end in '-selves', i.e. 'ourselves', 'yourselves', or 'themselves'.

			the reflexive pronouns		
himself		masculine	myself	the first person singular reflexive pronoun	singular
herself		feminine	yourself	the second person singular reflexive pronoun	
itself		neuter (i.e. non-personal)	himself/herself/itself/oneself	the third person singular reflexive pronoun	
oneself		neuter (i.e. non-personal)	ourselves	the first person plural reflexive pronoun	plural
			yourselves	the second person plural reflexive pronoun	
			themselves	the third person plural reflexive pronoun	

Examples

In the underneath example, i.e. 'I have made myself a sandwich.', the subject 'I' and the indirect object 'myself' refer to the same person (i.e. 'the first person singular'), and therefore the indirect object of the clause is the first person singular reflexive pronoun 'myself'.



In the underneath example, i.e. 'I have made you a sandwich.', the subject 'I' and the indirect object 'you' do not refer to the same person, and therefore the indirect object of the clause is the second person singular pronoun 'you', i.e. the indirect object does not refer back to the subject of the clause.

the subject		the predicate			
the first person singular pronoun	the auxiliary verb	the resultant participle	the second person singular pronoun	the determiner [i.e. the indefinite article]	the singular of the common noun
1 st I the doer	have	≠ made	2 nd you the beneficiary	a	sandwich. the recipient
the subject of the verbal group	the verbal group [two verbal forms]		the indirect object of the verbal group	the direct object of the verbal group	

⚠ Please note that the reflexive pronouns are not normally used as the subject of the clause, e.g. 'James and myself [sic] did it.' instead of 'James and I did it.'

the subject			the predicate	
the proper name	the coordinating conjunction	the first person singular reflexive pronoun	the past form of the verb 'do'	the third person singular pronoun
James	and the doer	myself [sic]	did the active voice	it. the recipient
the compound subject of the verbal form			the verbal form [one verbal form]	the direct object of the verbal form

⚠ Because 'myself' is used incorrectly as the subject, it does not ⚠ and cannot ⚠ refer back to the subject, which is incorrect. ⚠

In the aforementioned example, i.e. 'James and myself [sic] did it.', the first person singular reflexive pronoun 'myself' is used incorrectly as the subject of the clause, and therefore it does not ⚠ and cannot ⚠ refer back to the subject of the clause because it does not have its own subject – which is incorrect in standard English. Instead of the first person singular reflexive pronoun 'myself', the first person singular pronoun 'I' should be used as the subject of the clause as in the underneath example, i.e. 'James and I did it.'

the subject			the predicate	
the proper name	the coordinating conjunction	the first person singular pronoun	the past form of the verb 'do'	the third person singular pronoun
James	and the doer	I	did the active voice	it. the recipient
the compound subject of the verbal form			the verbal form [one verbal form]	the direct object of the verbal form

Emphasis

The reflexive pronouns can be used next to the subject of the clause to emphasize it [i.e. the subject], i.e. 'I myself believe that it is true.'

the subject			the predicate			the subject			the predicate				
the main clause						the subordinate clause							
the first person singular pronoun		the first person singular reflexive pronoun		the verb		the subordinating conjunction		the third person singular pronoun		the linking verb		the adjective	
I the feeler		emphasis myself		believe the active voice		that		it the subject		is the linking verb		true. the complement	
the subject of the verbal form		'myself' emphasizes 'I'		the verbal form				the subject of the linking verb		the linking verbal form		the complement of the linking verbal form	

Reflexive Verbal Forms and Groups

A reflexive verbal form or a reflexive verbal group has a reflexive pronoun as its object.

Optional Reflexive Pronouns

Sometimes, the reflexive pronouns are optional and can be syntactically omitted because their reflectiveness is contextually understood.

In the underneath example, i.e. 'I shaved, showered, and dressed.', the first person singular reflexive pronoun 'myself' is syntactically omitted, but its presence is understood, i.e. 'I shaved, showered, and dressed myself.'

the subject		the predicate			
the first person singular pronoun	the verb	the verb	the coordinating conjunction	the verb	
I the doer	first shaved, the active voice	second showered, the active voice	and	third dressed. the active voice	
the subject of the three verbal forms	the first verbal form	the second verbal form		the third verbal form	

In the underneath example, i.e. 'I shaved, showered, and dressed myself.', the first person singular reflexive pronoun 'myself' is present, but can be omitted as in the aforementioned example, i.e. 'I shaved, showered, and dressed.'

the subject		the predicate			
the first person singular pronoun	the verb	the verb	the coordinating conjunction	the verb	the first person singular reflexive pronoun
1 st I the doer	first shaved, the active voice	second showered, the active voice	and	third dressed the active voice	myself. the recipient
the subject of the three verbal forms	the first [reflexive] verbal form	the second [reflexive] verbal form		the third [reflexive] verbal form	the direct object of three reflexive verbal forms

The optional reflexive pronoun refers back to the subject, and can be either used or omitted.