

Title:

Online Learning Spanish Lesson on Reflexive Verbs and Pronouns

Word Count:

551

Summary:

This Spanish Grammar online topic covers Reflexive Verbs and Reflexive Pronouns. In Spanish, a verb is considered reflexive if the subject (the performer of the action) and the object (the receiver of the action) are the same.

Keywords:

Learning Spanish

Article Body:

Reflexive Verbs and Reflexive Pronouns

This Spanish Grammar online topic covers Reflexive Verbs and Reflexive Pronouns. In Spanish, a verb is considered reflexive if the subject (the performer of the action) and the object (the receiver of the action) are the same.

Here's an example of a reflexive verb being used in English:

I wash myself.

In the above sentence the verb "wash" is considered reflexive because the subject or the one performing the action ("I") and the object or the one receiving the action ("myself") are the same. On the other hand, if I said "I wash the baby," the verb "wash" is no longer reflexive because the subject or the one performing the action ("I") and the object or the one receiving the action ("baby") are not the same.

Spanish reflexive verbs consist of a verb and a reflexive pronoun.

The following are reflexive pronouns or objects of reflexive verbs.

me	myself
te	yourself (tú form)
se	yourself (usted form)
nos	ourselves
se	themselves, yourselves

When there is just one verb in the sentence, the reflexive pronoun must come before the reflexive verb.

Me baño.

I wash myself

However, when there are two verbs in the sentence, the reflexive pronoun either comes right before the first verb or follows the second verb.

Quiero bañarme.

I want to wash myself.

Me quiero bañar.

I want to wash myself.

Here are some examples using reflexive verbs.

Me afeito

I shave myself

Te duchas

You take a shower

Se llama Juan

He calls himself John

Nos dormimos

We fall asleep

No nos sentamos

We don't sit down

Se enojan

They get mad

Se levantan

All of you get up

Te cepillas los dientes

You brush your teeth.

Literally, "los dientes" means "the teeth" and not "your teeth." Since we are using the reflexive pronoun "te" it is obvious whose teeth we are talking about.

Here some common reflexive verbs in Spanish.

acostarse	to go to bed
afeitarse	to shave oneself
bañarse	to bathe oneself
casarse (con alguien)	to get married, to marry someone
cepillarse	to brush oneself
despertarse (ie)	to wake up
desvestirse (i)	to get undressed
divertirse (ie)	to enjoy oneself
dormirse (ue)	to fall asleep
ducharse	to take a shower

enfermarse	to get sick
lavarse	to wash oneself
levantarse	to get up
llamarse	to be named, to be called
mirarse	to look at oneself
peinarse	to comb (one's hair)
quitarse (la ropa)	to takeoff (one's clothes)
secarse	to dry one's self
sentarse (ie)	to sit down
sentirse (ie)	to feel
vestirse (i)	to get dressed

Now let's try a few exercises. Translate the following into Spanish. The answers follow the questions.

1. My name is Patrick
2. You brush your hair every evening. (Use "tu" form)
3. You can wash your feet. (Use "tú" form)
4. Do you take a shower or do you take a bath in the morning? (Use the "usted" form)
5. He takes off his pants.
6. We wash our hands before dinner.
7. The wake up very late.

2. Te cepillas el pelo cada noche.
3. Te puedes lavar los pies. Puedes lavarte los pies.
4. ¿Se ducha o se baña en la mañana?
5. Se quita los pantalones.
6. Nos lavamos las manos antes de la cena.
7. Se despiertan muy tarde.