

7.1

Reflexive verbs



Tutorial

ANTE TODO

A reflexive verb is used to indicate that the subject does something to or for himself or herself. In other words, it “reflects” the action of the verb back to the subject. Reflexive verbs always use reflexive pronouns.

SUBJECT REFLEXIVE VERB
 Joaquín **se ducha** por la mañana.

The verb *lavarse* (to wash oneself)

SINGULAR FORMS

yo	me lavo	<i>I wash (myself)</i>
tú	te lavas	<i>you wash (yourself)</i>
Ud.	se lava	<i>you wash (yourself)</i>
él/ella	se lava	<i>he/she washes (himself/herself)</i>

PLURAL FORMS

nosotros/as	nos lavamos	<i>we wash (ourselves)</i>
vosotros/as	os laváis	<i>you wash (yourselves)</i>
Uds.	se lavan	<i>you wash (yourselves)</i>
ellos/ellas	se lavan	<i>they wash (themselves)</i>

AYUDA

Except for **se**, reflexive pronouns have the same forms as direct and indirect object pronouns.

...

Se is used for both singular and plural subjects—there is no individual plural form:
 Pablo **se** lava.
 Ellos **se** lavan.

- ▶ The pronoun **se** attached to an infinitive identifies the verb as reflexive: **lavarse**.
- ▶ When a reflexive verb is conjugated, the reflexive pronoun agrees with the subject.

Me afeito.**Te despiertas** a las siete.

¿Te importa si me maquillo primero?



A las chicas les encanta maquillarse durante horas y horas.



- ▶ Like object pronouns, reflexive pronouns generally appear before a conjugated verb. With infinitives and present participles, they may be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive or present participle.

Ellos **se** van a vestir.
 Ellos van a **vestirse**.
They are going to get dressed.

Nos estamos lavando las manos.
 Estamos **lavándonos** las manos.
We are washing our hands.

- ▶ **¡Atención!** When a reflexive pronoun is attached to a present participle, an accent mark is added to maintain the original stress.

bañando → **bañándose**durmiendo → **durmiéndose**

AYUDA

You have already learned several adjectives that can be used with **ponerse** when it means *to become*:

alegre, cómodo/a, contento/a, elegante, guapo/a, nervioso/a, rojo/a, and triste.

Common reflexive verbs

acordarse (de) (o:ue)	<i>to remember</i>	llamarse	<i>to be called; to be named</i>
acostarse (o:ue)	<i>to go to bed</i>	maquillarse	<i>to put on makeup</i>
afeitarse	<i>to shave</i>	peinarse	<i>to comb one's hair</i>
bañarse	<i>to take a bath</i>	ponerse	<i>to put on</i>
cepillarse	<i>to brush</i>	ponerse (+ adj.)	<i>to become (+ adj.)</i>
despertarse (e:ie)	<i>to wake up</i>	preocuparse (por)	<i>to worry (about)</i>
dormirse (o:ue)	<i>to go to sleep; to fall asleep</i>	probarse (o:ue)	<i>to try on</i>
ducharse	<i>to take a shower</i>	quedarse	<i>to stay</i>
enojarse (con)	<i>to get angry (with)</i>	quitarse	<i>to take off</i>
irse	<i>to go away; to leave</i>	secarse	<i>to dry (oneself)</i>
lavarse	<i>to wash (oneself)</i>	sentarse (e:ie)	<i>to sit down</i>
levantarse	<i>to get up</i>	sentirse (e:ie)	<i>to feel</i>
		vestirse (e:i)	<i>to get dressed</i>

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Unlike English, a number of verbs in Spanish can be reflexive or non-reflexive. If the verb acts upon the subject, the reflexive form is used. If the verb acts upon something other than the subject, the non-reflexive form is used. Compare these sentences.



Lola **lava** los platos.



Lola **se lava** la cara.

As the preceding sentences show, reflexive verbs sometimes have different meanings than their non-reflexive counterparts. For example, **lavar** means *to wash*, while **lavarse** means *to wash oneself, to wash up*.

► **¡Atención!** Parts of the body or clothing are generally not referred to with possessives, but with articles.

La niña se quitó **un** zapato.

Necesito cepillarme **los** dientes.

recursos



¡INTÉNTALO!

Indica el presente de estos verbos reflexivos.

despertarse

- Mis hermanos se despiertan tarde.
- Tú _____ tarde.
- Nosotros _____ tarde.
- Benito _____ tarde.
- Yo _____ tarde.

ponerse

- Él se pone una chaqueta.
- Yo _____ una chaqueta.
- Usted _____ una chaqueta.
- Nosotras _____ una chaqueta.
- Las niñas _____ una chaqueta.