

Reflexive Pronouns

(“myself,” “yourself,” “himself,” “herself,” “itself,” etc.)

1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person ¹
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ἐμαυτοῦ, -ῆς	σεαυτοῦ, -ῆς σαυτοῦ, -ῆς	ἐαυτοῦ, -ῆς, -οῦ αὐτοῦ, -ῆς, -οῦ
ἐμαυτῶ, -ῆ	σεαυτῶ, -ῆ σαυτῶ, -ῆ	ἐαυτῶ, -ῆ, -ῶ αὐτῶ, -ῆ, -ῶ
ἐμαυτόν, -ήν	σεαυτόν, -ήν σαυτόν, -ήν	ἐαυτόν, -ήν, -ό αὐτόν, -ήν, -ό
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ἡμῶν αὐτῶν	ὕμῶν αὐτῶν	[σφῶν αὐτῶν] ἐαυτῶν αὐτῶν
ἡμῖν αὐτοῖς, -αῖς	ὕμῖν αὐτοῖς, -αῖς	[σφίσιν αὐτοῖς, -αῖς] ἐαυτοῖς, -αῖς, -οῖς αὐτοῖς, -αῖς, -οῖς
ἡμᾶς αὐτούς, -άς	ὕμᾶς αὐτούς, -άς	[σφᾶς αὐτούς, -άς] ἐαυτούς, -άς, -ά αὐτούς, -άς, -ά

Note that these forms merely combine the personal pronoun with intensive αὐτός, as is most evident in the plural. (In the singular, the pronominal prefix resembles the emphatic acc.)

The reflexive pronoun is employed when the subject of a verb performs an action upon him/her/itself (e.g., “he hurt himself”) or there is an allusion to something that concerns or affects the subject of the main verb (“she did this for herself”).

E.g. “He loved himself.” — ἐφίλει ἐαυτόν.

“They hated their own children.” — ἐμίσουν τοὺς ἐαυτῶν παῖδας.²

“He said that Socrates taught him (i.e., the speaker himself).” — εἶπε ὅτι ὁ Σωκράτης ἐδίδαξε ἐαυτόν.

[The last example entails what is known as an indirect reflexive. The statement, εἶπε ὅτι ὁ Σωκράτης ἐδίδαξε αὐτόν would have the speaker saying that Socrates taught an unspecified third person.]

The genitive of reflexive pronouns appears in the attributive position when indicating possession:

ἐμίσουν τοὺς ἐαυτῶν παῖδας. — “They hated their own children.”

In theory, you might sometimes require a neuter version of the first- or second-person reflexive pronoun (as in the statement, “I love myself,” spoken by an animated plow [τὸ ἄροτρον] in a Disney film), but this would be rare (and even there the likelihood is that the anthropomorphized plow would employ the masculine or feminine). As a result, forms that imply a human subject generally omit the neuter.

¹ The 3rd-person reflexive pronoun is sometimes used, irrationally, in place of the 1st or 2nd person.

² On the use of the possessive genitive here, compare below.