



English **Conversation** **Club**

Meets
9:30-11am
on Tuesdays
here!

sbc

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Reflexive (and Intensive) Pronouns

*myself, yourself, itself, herself, himself
ourselves, themselves*

*Use when the **subject** and **object** of the sentence are the same person/thing*

Use for emphasis (i.e. to make it 'intensive') when the reflexive pronoun isn't needed

Some examples

"I taught **myself** to ride a bicycle".

"This **machine** can repair **itself**".

"**He** must get **himself** ready for the start".

[You]"Help **yourself** to a cream cake".

"**They** will sing **themselves** to sleep".

"She ate so much cream cake that **she** made **herself** ill".

"Would **you** like to pour **yourself** a drink"?

... but often unnecessary

When talking about things usually done by the person or thing, it's not necessary to use a reflexive pronoun:

"**She** washed [*herself*] in the shower".

"**He** trained [*himself*] to win the competition".

If you **do** use it, you are 'intensifying' the meaning, it's no longer the object!:

"**We**'ve bought **ourselves** a **camper van**".

"**They**'re old enough to do **it themselves**".

"**I** made **this myself**". "The **king himself** gave the **award**".

Exceptions!

Can often use after the prepositions 'for', 'to', 'by', but not after prepositions of place:

"**They** had to cook for **themselves**".

"**She** talked to **herself**".

"He was lonely when **he** was by **himself**".

"**He** had his dog next to **him**" [not *himself*].

"**She** had a few friends with **her**" [not *herself*].