

Reflexive Verbs

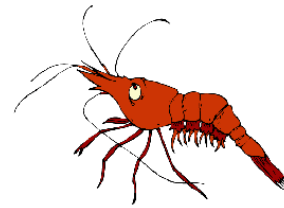
Anytime we use the construction I --- myself, He ----- himself, etc., we are using reflexive verbs. The verb “reflects” back onto the subject of the verb. We also use it, in Spanish, when we say We ---- each other, They ----- each other. In this case, the verb reflects a reciprocal action back on the subjects (back to each other).

Learn the reflexive verb pronouns. They are much like object pronouns in that they come before the verb or are attached to an infinitive. They also are quite similar to the object pronouns.



Reflexive Pronouns

me	nos
te	os
se	se



When a sentence contains a reflexive pronoun and one or more object pronouns, the reflexive pronoun precedes the object pronouns. The order is **RID**:

Reflexive pronoun -- Indirect object pronoun -- Direct object pronoun

You have already seen at least one reflexive verb in action:

Me llamo Randy.	Literally, “I call myself Randy.”
Te llamas Juan.	Literally, “You call yourself Juan.”
Se llama Susan.	Literally, “She calls herself Susan.”

Note that many verbs that use reflexive constructions in Spanish do not do the same in English. When we translate, we drop the reflection. For example, we would translate the above:

“My name is Randy.”
“Your name is Jon.”
“Her name is Susan.”

You should now be used to seeing (i), (ie) or (ue) after verbs, to indicate the way their stems change. Reflexive verbs add **-se** to the end of their infinitive form, to indicate that they are to be used in reflexive form. Many verbs have both a regular and a reflexive form, often meaning different things.

For example:	llamar	to call	poner	to put, place
	llamarse	to be named	ponerse	to put on

Reflexive Verbs

Here is a list of reflexive verbs. There are many more than what is given. Just remember that when you see **-se** attached to the end of an infinitive, that means it is a reflexive verb and needs to include a reflexive pronoun in its conjugation.

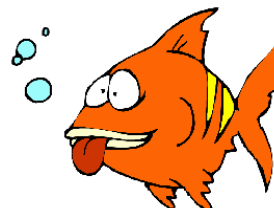
acostarse (ue)	to go to bed
acostumbrarse	to get used to
afeitarse	to shave
bañarse	to bathe oneself, take a bath
casarse	to get married
cepillarse	to brush (hair or teeth)
despertarse (ie)	to wake up
desvestirse (ie)	to undress
divertirse (ie)	to have fun, enjoy oneself
dormirse (ue)	to fall asleep
ducharse	to take a shower
enfermarse	to get sick
enojarse	to get angry
irse	to go away, leave
lavarse	to wash (oneself)
levantarse	to stand up, get up
llamarse	to be named
maquillarse	to put on makeup (on oneself)
mirarse	to look at oneself
mudarse	to move, change residence
peinarse	to comb one's hair
ponerse (la ropa)	to become, to put on (clothing)
preocuparse (por)	to worry (about)
probarse (ue)	to try on
quedarse	to remain, stay
quitarse	to take off, remove
secarse	to dry off
sentarse (ie)	to sit down
sentirse (ie)	to feel (emotionally or physically)
verse	to see oneself (or each other)
vestirse (i)	to get dressed



Reflexive Verb Phrases

Now that you know how to use reflexive verbs, here are some phrases to play with.

lavarse + (part of body)	to wash
romperse + (part of body)	to break
quebrarse (ie) + (part of body)	to break
quemarse + (part of body)	to burn



ponerse + (article of clothing)	to put on
quitarse + (article of clothing)	to take off
romperse + (article of clothing)	to tear

abrocharse los cordones	to tie one's shoelaces
desabrocharse los cordones	to untie one's shoelaces

cepillarse los dientes	to brush one's teeth
limpiarse los dientes	to brush one's teeth

lavarse la cabeza	to wash one's hair
cortarse el pelo	to get a haircut

lastimarse el dedo	to hurt one's finger
torcerse (ue) el tobillo	to twist one's ankle

Translate each sentence carefully, using the reflexive verbs list.



1. He shaves at six o'clock in the morning.
2. I worry about school.
3. We get dressed at 7:45.
4. They fall asleep at 10 pm.
5. Mom puts on makeup when she goes out.
6. You try on these sweaters and pants.
7. My friend gets angry with me.
8. You all get sick when you all eat meatballs.
9. I have to take a shower today.

Write T or F to tell whether each statement is true or false for you. Be ready to translate.

_____ Me siento en el escritorio.

_____ Me divierto en la playa.

_____ Me maquillo.



_____ Voy a casarme cuando tengo diecinueve años.

_____ Me enojo cuando hago los deberes.

_____ Me acuesto a las ocho de la noche.

_____ Voy a mudarme en septiembre.

_____ Me enfermo cuando bebo la leche.

_____ Deseo bañarme ahora mismo.

_____ Me despierto a las ocho de la mañana.

_____ Me afeito cada día.

_____ Me voy mi casa a las diez de la mañana.

Translate the following sentences using reflexive verb phrases.

1. My little brother doesn't untie his shoelaces.
2. I'm going to get a haircut at three o'clock.
3. My sister doesn't know how to tie her shoelaces.
4. We take off our boots and hats.
5. You wash your hair.
6. Ron brushes his teeth before he goes to bed.
7. I hurt my finger.
8. We wash our hands before we eat.

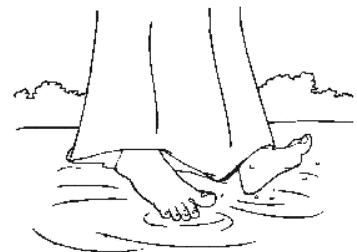


Using reflexive verb phrases and your body vocabulary, carefully translate the following sentences. NOTE: do NOT use a possessive pronoun such as mi or tu in these sentences!

Example: **I break my finger = Me quiebro el dedo.**

With a change of subject, the reflexive verb and its pronoun change, but the article remains the same!

1. I wash my hands.
2. You burn your finger.
3. He breaks his nose.
4. They wash their faces.
5. You all burn your skin.
6. I break my toes.
7. She washes her hair.
8. We wash our feet.



Compose one sentence for each verb in each pair. Study the examples for help.

Examples: **poner -- ponerse**
Pongo una tarta en la mesa.
Me pongo un abrigo.

lavar -- lavarse
Lavamos los perros.
Te lavas los manos.

1. llamar -- llamarse

2. mirar -- mirarse

3. bañar -- bañarse

4. ir -- irse

5. probar -- probarse

Decide which verb to use in each sentence, and conjugate it in the blank.

1. **llamar -- llamarse**

Mi perro _____ Felipe.

(Yo) _____ a mi amigo por teléfono.

2. **probar -- probarse**

¿ _____ usted la comida frita?

(Nosotros) _____ estos zapatos.

3. **poner -- ponerse**

María _____ los platos en la mesa.

(Tú) _____ el suéter.

4. **ir -- irse**

(Yo) _____ a nadar en la playa.

Mi madre _____ a las ocho.



5. **bañar -- bañarse**

(Nosotros) No _____ nuestros caballos.

(Yo) Siempre _____ los viernes.

6. **mirar -- mirarse**

No tengo ganas de _____ cuando estoy enfermo.

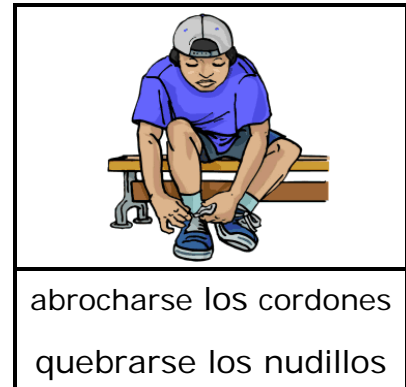
Tengo ganas de _____ la televisión.

7. **dormir -- dormirse**

(Yo) _____ hasta siete de la mañana.

Mi padre _____ en el sofá a veces.

Circle a best translation for each picture.



Match each reflexive verb with its meaning.

- _____ sentarse
- _____ levantarse
- _____ afeitarse
- _____ maquillarse
- _____ casarse
- _____ despertarse

- A.** to stand up, get up
- B.** to put on makeup
- C.** to wake up
- D.** to sit down
- E.** to get married
- F.** to shave

GUSTAR and Friends

There are several verbs that are not reflexive, yet follow an unusual construction. The verbs here follow this pattern:

indirect object pronoun + 3rd person verb + noun (or infinitive)

Here are some examples, with translations. They all use the verb *gustar*. The other verbs listed on the other side follow the same pattern.

Me gusta el gato.	I like the cat.
Te gusta este libro.	You like this book.
Le gusta mi casa.	He likes my house.
Nos gusta el coche.	We like the car.



The following all use plural items. The pronouns still may be singular, according to the subject, but the verb is plural to reflect the plural noun.

Me gustan los perros.	I like dogs.
Te gustan las casas grandes.	You like big houses.
Nos gustan a nuestros abuelos.	We like our grandparents.
Les gustan mis libros.	They like my books.



When you want to specify who the subject is, put **A (person)** at the beginning.

A ella le gusta mi casa.	She likes my house.
A mi abuela, le gustan sus gatos.	My grandmother likes her cats.
A Pedro y Paco, les gustan las chicas.	Pedro and Paco like the girls.

When the item being referred to is exceptionally long in words, you may put it at the beginning.

Los libros muy interesantes me gustan.	I like very interesting books.
Esa chica bonita y alta te gusta.	You like that pretty, tall girl.

Infinitive verbs or infinitive verb phrases can also be used in the place of a noun. Use the singular form of the verb.

Me gusta nadar en la playa.	I like to swim at the beach.
Nos gusta ir de paseo.	We like to go for walks.

GUSTAR and Friends

Here are some common verbs that follow this construction:

bastar	to be sufficient/ enough
disgustar	to be offensive to, to hate
doler (ue)	to be painful to, to hurt
encantar	to be enchanting to, to delight, to “love”
faltar	to be lacking, to be missing, to need
fascinar	to be fascinating to
gustar	to be pleasing to, to like
importar	to be important to, to matter to
interesar	to be interesting to
molestar	to bother

Some examples:

Ahora mismo me duele el tobillo.

Right now, my ankle hurts (me).

La historia de España me fascina.

Spanish history fascinates me.

Normalmente, a mi padre le falta el desayuno.

Normally, my father misses breakfast.

A mi hermana, le encantan los animales.

My sister loves animals.

A veces no me gusta la escuela.

Sometimes I don't like school.

A mi amigo no le interesan las chicas.

My friend is not interested in girls.

Para la ensalada nos falta el aliño.

We're lacking the dressing for the salad.

Te bastan seis libros.

Six books are enough for you.



Tell about ten things you like using GUSTAR. They can be things from past vocabulary, and/or things you look up in your Spanish dictionary.

Examples: Me gustan los caballos.
 Me gusta nadar en la playa.
 Me gusta estudiar español.



Me gusta y no me gusta

For each set choose at least one item you like and at least one item you don't like.

EXAMPLE: **pintar, esquiar, dibujar, trotar, cocinar, viajar**

Me gusta dibujar.

No me gusta cocinar.

trabajar, bailar, leer, cantar, estudiar, escribir



el queso, el atún, el pollo, el bistec, la hamburguesa

la salsa de tomate, la mostaza, la mayonesa, el aliño, la salsa de carne

tener suerte, tener razón, tener sed, tener cuidado, tener frío

los gatos, los perros, las ardillas, los lobos, las arañas, los cerdos

la selva, el desierto, el prado, las montañas, los valles, la costa

Answer each question in the negative and replace the ending words in the question with those provided in parentheses. Then translate your answer. Follow the example.

Example: ¿Te gustan los gatos? (los perros)
No, me gustan los perros.
No, I like the dogs.

1. ¿Te falta el pan? (la jalea)

2. ¿Te molesta el viento? (la nieve)

3. ¿Te disgusta estudiar literatura? (matemáticas)

4. ¿Te duele los pies? (los tobillos)

5. ¿Te interesa la historia de los Estados Unidos? (del mundo)

6. ¿Te gustan los zorros? (los lobos)



Compose ten questions using GUSTAR. You will be asking these to others, orally.

Examples: ¿Te gusta el chile?
 ¿Te gustan tus ojos?
 ¿Te gusta leer muchos libros?



Compose 15 true sentences, telling about yourself using GUSTAR and friends.

5 sentences telling things you LIKE, using gustar

5 sentences telling things you HATE, using disgustar

3 sentences telling things that INTEREST you, using interesar

2 sentences telling things that BOTHER you, using molestar



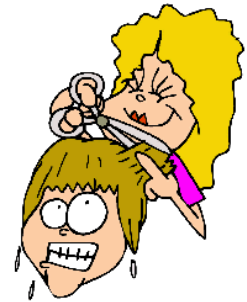
Compose 15 sentences about your family and friends. First, pick three people (not yourself) whom you know well. Then, for each one write five sentences, each using a different GUSTAR verb. In the example below, I use “mi amigo” for my subject. You will use names.

Example: A mi amigo le gustan los lobos.
 A veces le molesta su hermano pequeño.
 A mi amigo le falta cortarse el pelo.
 A mi amigo le interesa la literatura.
 Hoy a mi amigo no le importa la escuela.



Use some or all of your GUSTAR verbs to complete the following sentences.
Be ready to translate orally.

1. A mi hermana _____ los animales.
2. Yo no _____ las noticias (news).
3. Nosotros _____ el diablo (devil).
4. Nosotros _____ Dios (God).
5. A veces yo _____ mi hermana pequeña.
6. Tú _____ comer la cena, ¿no?
7. A mi abuelo _____ los niños (children).
8. A los elefantes _____ los ratones.
9. Vosotros _____ tener prisa.
10. A mi madre y yo _____ los libros.
11. Yo _____ mi cabeza y mi cuello.
12. Tú _____ cortarse el pelo.



Write three things you like or hate TO DO (using infinitive verbs).

Gustar and Reflexive Verbs Practice

Carefully translate the following sentences.

1. He takes off his jacket and hat.
2. My little brothers go to bed at nine o'clock.
3. We like to swim at the beach.
4. We see each other on Thursdays.
5. I hate old houses.
6. You are interested in literature, aren't you?
7. They get a haircut here.