

## ***Reflexive Pronouns: Beyond the first meaning***

### ***Directions for the teacher:***

**STEP 1** – Do Task A in pairs.

**STEP 2** – Do Task B in pairs. Change partners if possible.

**STEP 3** – Have students complete Task C independently. Discuss the answers as a class.

### ***Suggested word order:***

2. Paul is too critical. He needs to find more positive things to say. I told him so **myself**.
3. Yes, I wrote this poem **myself**. Why are you so surprised?
4. Didn't you find it funny how much advice Tina had about buying a car? She's never even bought one **herself**!
5. Rogerio is a good person to ask about martial arts. He **himself** has three black belts.

**STEP 4** – Discuss the questions in Task D as a class. Prompt students explain the meaning of each boldfaced phrase with a reflexive pronoun.

## Reflexive Pronouns: Beyond the first meaning

**A. What do you prefer to do alone? Mark an activity with an 'X' if you usually do it by yourself. Discuss your choices with a partner.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I usually eat breakfast by myself. | <input type="checkbox"/> I usually study by myself.                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I usually eat lunch by myself.     | <input type="checkbox"/> I go shopping by myself.                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I usually eat dinner by myself.    | <input type="checkbox"/> I usually take walks by myself.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I usually watch TV by myself.      | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other:</i> I like to be by myself when... |

**B. What would be difficult to do without any help? Mark an activity with an 'X' if you think it would be hard to do by yourself. Discuss your choices with a partner.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fix a sink by myself         | <input type="checkbox"/> cook a big meal by myself                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> change a tire by myself      | <input type="checkbox"/> travel far all by myself                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> paint a room by myself       | <input type="checkbox"/> buy a house or apartment by myself                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> take care of a pet by myself | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other:</i> ... would be hard to do all by myself. |

**C. Rewrite each statement. Use the reflexive pronoun in parentheses for emphasis. The first one has been done for you.**

1. I offered to stop at the store for Cathy, but she said she wanted to go **herself** and choose things. (**herself**)
2. Paul is too critical. He needs to find more positive things to say. I told him so. (**myself**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Yes, I wrote this poem. Why are you so surprised? (**myself**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Didn't you find it funny how much advice Tina had about buying a car? She's never even bought one! (**herself**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Rogerio is a good person to ask about martial arts. He has three black belts. (**himself**)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **D. Questions for discussion.**

1. Is it easy to **be yourself** when you meet people for the first time?
2. Name something you have to **see for yourself** in order to believe it's real.
3. Do you like to tell people right away about exciting news, or do you prefer to **keep it to yourself** for a while?
4. When or why might people **talk to themselves**?
5. Some things we do for others to make them happy. Other things we do for ourselves. Give an example of what you did **for yourself and yourself alone**.
6. How could you **make yourself look bad** at a job interview?
7. Do you **remind yourself** of things you need to do each day? How?
8. Is there anything you **ask yourself or tell yourself** often?