

Reflexive Verbs

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ReflexiveVer

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T'appeles
Je m'appelle

reflexive pronoun: Indicates who the verb is being done to

Reflexive Verbs

A verb that is done to yourself

A pronominal verb is a verb that is accompanied by a reflexive pronoun. Pronominal verbs fall into three major classes based on their meaning: reflexive, idiomatic, and reciprocal. You have probably already seen the pronominal verb **s'appeler** (Comment t'appelles-tu? What is your name?). To conjugate pronominal verbs in the present tense, you need to pay attention to both the pronoun and the verb form. Listen carefully to the conjugation of the following pronominal verb. **The verb is conjugated normally (here an -er verb) with addition of the reflexive pronouns** me, te, se, nous, vous, se

Tu t'appelles
Je m'appelle
ne pas

se raser 'to shave oneself'	
je <u>me</u> rase	nous <u>nous</u> rasons
tu <u>te</u> rases	vous <u>vous</u> rasez
il/elle/on <u>se</u> rase	ils/elles <u>se</u> rasent

↓ "we" (informal) ↓ "we" (formal)

Reflexive Verbs

Pronominal verbs often express reflexive actions, that is, the subject performs the action on itself. If the subject performs the action on someone else, the verb is not reflexive. Here is a list of common reflexive verbs:

Je m'assois

s'asseoir , to sit down	s'habiller , to get dressed
s'appeler , to call oneself	se laver , to wash
s'arrêter , to stop	se lever , to get up
se brosser , to brush	se promener , to take a walk
se coucher , to go to bed	se réveiller , to wake up

Compare the difference in meaning between **se raser** and **raser** in the following sentences. Note that English does not usually indicate reflexive meaning explicitly since it can be inferred from the context. However, if reflexive meaning is intended in French, then it must be explicitly stated by using a reflexive pronoun.

Est-ce que Tex **se rase**?

Mais non, Tex, c'est un tatou. Il n'a pas de cheveux.

Qu'est-ce qu'il fait, Tex, avec le rasoir? Il **rase** Joe-Bob pour l'été.

Does Tex **shave**?

Why no, Tex is an armadillo. He has no hair.

What's Tex doing with the razor? He's shaving Joe-Bob for the summer.



Je ^{sais} ne pas

insert verb here

me, te, se, nous, vous, se

INSERT VERB HERE
me, te, se, nous, vous, se

Negating Reflexive Verbs

To negate pronominal verbs, place the **ne** before the reflexive pronoun and the **pas** after the verb. When used with an auxiliary verb such as *aimer* (to like), the infinitive of a pronominal verb agrees with its subject. When pronominal verbs are used with parts of the body, they take the definite article (*le, la, les*) rather than the possessive article as in English: **Tex se lave les mains.** (Tex washes his hands.)

Joe Bob: Edouard, est-ce que tu **te rases**?

Joe Bob: Edouard, do you shave?

Edouard: Non, je **ne me rase pas**.

Edouard: No, I don't shave.

Les escargots **ne se rasent pas**.
Pourtant, nous **nous lavons le**
visage tous les jours.

Snails don't shave. However we
do wash our faces every day.

Joe-Bob: Ah, tu as de la chance.
Je déteste **me raser**.

Joe-Bob: Ah, you're lucky. I hate
to shave.

Idiomatic Verbs

Some pronominal verbs are idiomatic and do not represent reflexive actions per se. **s'amuser** (to have fun) and **se reposer** (to rest) are examples of pronominal verbs with idiomatic meanings. The following list includes common idiomatic pronominal verbs:



s'amuser, to have fun

se passer, to happen

se dépêcher, to hurry

se reposer, to rest

s'endormir, to fall asleep

se sentir, to feel

s'ennuyer, to be bored

se souvenir de, to remember

s'entendre, to get along

se taire, to be silent

se fâcher, to get angry

se tromper, to make a mistake

se marier, to get married

se trouver, to be (situated)

Reciprocal Verbs

A third category of pronominal verbs expresses a reciprocal action between more than one person, **s'aimer** or **se parler**, for example. The English equivalent often uses the phrase 'each other' to represent this reciprocal action. Here is a list of common reciprocal verbs:

s'aimer, to love each other

se parler to talk to each other

se détester, to hate each other

se quitter, to leave each other

se disputer, to argue

se regarder, to look at each other

s'embrasser, to kiss

se retrouver, to meet each other

se téléphoner, to telephone each
other

REFLEXIVE VERBS