

7.1 Reflexive verbs

ANTE TODO

A reflexive verb is used to indicate that the subject does something to or for himself or herself. In other words, it “reflects” the action of the verb back to the subject. Reflexive verbs always use reflexive pronouns.



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The verb lavarse (to wash oneself)

SINGULAR FORMS

yo	me lavo	<i>I wash (myself)</i>
tú	te lavas	<i>you wash (yourself)</i>
Ud.	se lava	<i>you wash (yourself)</i>
él/ella	se lava	<i>he/she washes (himself/herself)</i>

PLURAL FORMS

nosotros/as	nos lavamos	<i>we wash (ourselves)</i>
vosotros/as	os laváis	<i>you wash (yourselves)</i>
Uds.	se lavan	<i>you wash (yourselves)</i>
ellos/ellas	se lavan	<i>they wash (themselves)</i>

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- ▶ The pronoun **se** attached to an infinitive identifies the verb as reflexive: **lavarse**.
- ▶ When a reflexive verb is conjugated, the reflexive pronoun agrees with the subject.

Me afeito.

*Me ducho,
me cepillo los
dientes, me visto
y ¡listo!*



Te despiertas a las siete.

*¡Ay, los
estudiantes!
Siempre se
acuestan tarde.*



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- ▶ Like object pronouns, reflexive pronouns generally appear before a conjugated verb. With infinitives and present participles, they may be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive or present participle.

Ellos **se** van a vestir.

Ellos van a vestir**se**.

They are going to get dressed.

Nos estamos lavando las manos.

Estamos lavándon**os** las manos.

We are washing our hands.

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- ▶ **¡Atención!** When a reflexive pronoun is attached to a present participle, an accent mark is added to maintain the original stress.

bañando → bañándose

durmiendo → durmiéndose

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Common reflexive verbs

acordarse (de) (o:ue)	<i>to remember</i>	llamarse	<i>to be called; to be named</i>
acostarse (o:ue)	<i>to go to bed</i>	maquillarse	<i>to put on makeup</i>
afeitarse	<i>to shave</i>	peinarse	<i>to comb one's hair</i>
bañarse	<i>to bathe; to take a bath</i>	ponerse	<i>to put on</i>
cepillarse	<i>to brush</i>	ponerse (+ adj.)	<i>to become (+ adj.)</i>
despedirse (de) (e:i)	<i>to say goodbye (to)</i>	preocuparse (por)	<i>to worry (about)</i>
despertarse (e:ie)	<i>to wake up</i>	probarse (o:ue)	<i>to try on</i>
dormirse (o:ue)	<i>to go to sleep; to fall asleep</i>	quedarse	<i>to stay; to remain</i>
ducharse	<i>to shower; to take a shower</i>	quitarse	<i>to take off</i>
enojarse (con)	<i>to get angry (with)</i>	secarse	<i>to dry (oneself)</i>
irse	<i>to go away; to leave</i>	sentarse (e:ie)	<i>to sit down</i>
lavarse	<i>to wash (oneself)</i>	sentirse (e:ie)	<i>to feel</i>
levantarse	<i>to get up</i>	vestirse (e:i)	<i>to get dressed</i>

7.1 Reflexive verbs**COMPARE & CONTRAST**

Unlike English, a number of verbs in Spanish can be reflexive or non-reflexive. If the verb acts upon the subject, the reflexive form is used. If the verb acts upon something other than the subject, the non-reflexive form is used. Compare these sentences.



Lola **lava** los platos.



Lola **se lava** la cara.

As the preceding sentences show, reflexive verbs sometimes have different meanings than their non-reflexive counterparts. For example, **lavar** means *to wash*, while **lavarse** means *to wash oneself, to wash up*.

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- ▶ **¡Atención!** Parts of the body or clothing are generally not referred to with possessives, but with the definite article.

La niña se quitó **los** zapatos.

Necesito cepillarme **los** dientes.

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**Indica el presente de estos verbos reflexivos.
El primero de cada columna ya está conjugado.**

despertarse

1. Mis hermanos se despiertan tarde.
2. Tú _____ tarde.
3. Nosotros _____ tarde.
4. Benito _____ tarde.
5. Yo _____ tarde.

ponerse

1. Él se pone una chaqueta.
2. Yo _____ una chaqueta.
3. Usted _____ una chaqueta.
4. Nosotras _____ una chaqueta.
5. Las niñas _____ una chaqueta.