

# Reflexive Verbs

Reflexive verbs (those which have a “se” at the end in the infinitive form such as vestirse or lavarse) are those in which an action is done by the subject to/for himself. They generally deal with body movement, personal hygiene or change (emotional, physical, etc.). They are conjugated by changing the “se” to the appropriate reflexive pronoun (see chart below) and then by conjugating the verb itself (bañarse: me baño). It is important to remember that the pronoun (me, te, se) and the verb should correspond to the same person(s) (i.e. nosotros nos lavamos).

Reflexive pronouns	
me	nos
te	os
se	se

The pronoun (me, te, nos, se) goes *before* the verb except for in the following three cases, where it is *attached* to the end of the verb form (command, infinitive or present participle).

1. The reflexive verb is in the infinitive. (necesito bañarme)
2. The verb is in affirmative (positive) command form: (báñese)
3. The verb is in the present progressive (I am bathing) form: (estoy bañándome)

An example of a conjugated reflexive verb (stem-changing and other types of irregular verbs are conjugated as they normally would be, according to tense.)

lavarse	
(yo) me lavo	(nosotros) nos lavamos
(tú) te lavas	(vosotros) os laváis
(él) se lava	(ellos) se lavan

acostarse (o:ue)	
me acuesto	nos acostamos
te acuestas	os acostáis
se acuesta	se acuestan

## Sample reflexive verbs:

### physical movement:

acostarse (o:ue)	to lie down
levantarse	to get up (out of bed), to stand up
sentarse (e:ie)	to sit down

### emotional / physical change:

sentirse (e:ie)	to feel
dormirse (o:ue)	to fall asleep
despertarse (e:ie)	to wake up
cansarse	to get tired

### personal hygiene:

afeitarse	to shave
ponerse	to put on (clothing)
lavarse	to wash
quitarse	to take off (clothing)
cepillarse	to brush (teeth / hair)
peinarse	to comb one's hair
vestirse (e:i)	to get dressed
bañarse	to bathe
ducharse	to shower
maquillarse	to put on makeup
limpiarse	to clean oneself

*Remember: Reflexive verbs can be used in any tense, including perfect tenses. The placement of the reflexive pronouns is always the same, but the verb is conjugated according to proper tense.*

I shave: me afeito

I am shaving: estoy afeitándome

I shaved: me afeité

I'm going to shave: Voy a afeitarme

I was shaving: me afeitaba

I will shave: me afeitaré

I would shave: me afeitaría

I have shaved: me he afeitado

I had shaved: me había afeitado

She doubts that I shave: Ella duda que me afeite

It's important that you have shaved: Es importante que te hayas afeitado

To practice with reflexive verbs, please visit:

<http://www.conjuguemos.com> (#4)

<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercices/reflexives.html>

<http://www.studyspanish.com/lessons/reflexive1.htm>

<http://www.studyspanish.com/lessons/reflexive2.htm>