

Personal, Reflexive, and Intensive Pronouns

11i. A **personal pronoun** refers to the one speaking (*first person*), the one spoken to (*second person*), or the one spoken about (*third person*).

EXAMPLES They asked **me** to give **you** this message and to wait for **your** reply. [*They* is third person, *me* is first person, and *you* and *your* are second person.]

11j. A **reflexive pronoun** refers to the subject and functions as a complement or an object of a preposition.

11k. An **intensive pronoun** emphasizes a noun or another pronoun.

All reflexive and intensive pronouns end in *–self* or *–selves*.

REFLEXIVE The explorers had promised **themselves** that one day they would scale Mount McKinley. [*Themselves*, an indirect object, refers to the subject *explorers*.]

INTENSIVE Mark had prepared the entire dinner **himself**. [*Himself* emphasizes the noun *Mark*.]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun or pronouns. Above each pronoun, write *P* for *personal*, *R* for *reflexive*, or *I* for *intensive*.

Example 1. Mimi finally gave up looking, and ^{*P*} she told ^{*R*} herself that the missing book would turn up eventually.

- Hari bought the bicycle himself, with his own money.
- As soon as the students decided to write and perform a play, they created an outline of the story.
- After waiting an hour for Jesse to stop talking on the phone, the kids filled the wading pool themselves.
- Did you leave the cup on the counter?
- When Mr. and Mrs. Britt sold their house, it was on the market for only a week.
- I bought the sandwich for you, Al, and the salad for myself.
- “We should not be too hard on ourselves,” the coach told the team. “We worked hard and did the best we could.”
- Gwen, you need to ask yourself some tough questions about the future.
- The Wahrmans painted their new house themselves.
- Dr. Connolly himself cooked the main course for us.