

Reflexive verbs and reflexive constructions

.8.

Reflexive verbs are used in reflexive constructions, which consist of a verb + a reflexive pronoun. The subject of the verb, a person or thing, performs and receives the action expressed by the verb. A verb is reflexive if the action the subject does is directed back to the subject. Study the following examples:

Nos duchamos por la mañana. *We shower in the morning.*
Siempre te miras al espejo. *You always look at yourself in the mirror.*

The first example literally says *we shower ourselves*. The ending in the present-tense form **duchamos** indicates the person **nosotros** as the subject, as does the reflexive pronoun **nos** preceding the verb. The same is true for the second example and the person **tú**, indicated by the ending **-as** in **miras** and the reflexive pronoun **te**, the object of the action. In other words, the subject and the object receiving the action are the same.

Me afeito todos los días. *I shave (myself) every day.*

In the previous example, the person **yo** does the action, **afeito**. The subject **yo** receives the action; the pronoun **me** indicates the subject, i.e., the receiver of the action.

Reflexive verbs in English are not quite as common as in Spanish. However, one use of reflexive pronouns in English is indeed equivalent to the reflexive pronouns in Spanish.

Leo se defendió. *Leo defended himself.*

In English, reflexive pronouns are often used to emphasize an action. In those cases, they are equivalent to Spanish emphatic forms of the subject pronouns with **mismo(a)**, **mismos(as)** (*myself, yourself, him/herself, etc.*). Reflexive pronouns in Spanish are also used to emphasize something a person does for himself or herself. The first example that follows shows the subject pronoun and **mismo(a)** used *without* a reflexive construction; the second example, with similar meaning, is instead expressed with a reflexive verb.

Yo mismo(a) escogí el número ganador.

I myself chose the winning number.

Ellos se compran los billetes en la Internet.

They themselves purchase the tickets on the Internet.

Spanish has numerous reflexive verbs. Practically any verb that takes a direct object may be used with a reflexive pronoun. Because they are used with their corresponding reflexive pronouns, textbooks and dictionaries usually list them with the pronoun **se** attached to the infinitive: **lavar(se)**, **afeitar(se)**, **vestir(se)**, etc. Remember that their English equivalents may *not* necessarily be used reflexively (i.e., with *-self, -selves*).

Reflexive Verbs and Pronouns

To conjugate a reflexive verb, use the corresponding reflexive pronoun. Use the following model to form reflexive verbs in the present tense.

bañar(se) (<i>to bathe, take a bath</i>)	
me baño	nos bañamos
te bañas	os bañáis
se baña	se bañan

Study the pronouns, and remember that:

- the forms of the reflexive pronouns are:

me	myself	nos	ourselves
te	yourself	os	yourselves
se	yourself/himself/herself	se	yourselves/themselves

- persons **Ud.**, **Uds.**, **él/ella**, and **ellos/ellas** have the same reflexive pronoun, **se**.
- reflexive pronouns are placed immediately before a conjugated verb.

Some commonly used regular reflexive verbs appear in the lists that follow. Remember the type of situation where reflexive verbs are likely to appear in Spanish: verbs that express actions related to personal care and daily routine or habits are often reflexive, because the subject receives the action he or she does to or on himself or herself.

afeitarse	to shave	mirarse	to look at oneself
cepillarse	to brush	ponerse	to put on
desayunarse	to have breakfast	quitarse	to take off
ducharse	to shower	secarse	to dry oneself, dry off

ejercicio

8-1

Mi rutina diaria. Choose one of the reflexive verbs from the previous list to complete the thought in each sentence. Use the **yo** form. Some of the sentences have more than one appropriate answer.

- Generalmente no _____ hasta las ocho.

2. Voy al baño y _____ en el espejo.
3. Entonces, _____ la barba con cuidado.
4. _____ el pijama y entro en la ducha.
5. Con agua caliente, _____ y canto bajo el agua.
6. Cuando termino, _____ con la toalla.
7. Después _____ los dientes.

More Reflexive Verbs

When expressing actions regarding personal care, Spanish reflexive verbs are used with a definite article preceding parts of the body. In English, the possessive adjective is used instead.

Nos lavamos **la cara**.
Se cepillan **los dientes**.

*We wash **our** faces.*
*They brush **their** teeth.*

Note that **la cara**, the noun referring to a part of the body, is singular, despite the fact that more than one person is washing his or her face. In Spanish, it is understood that each one washes his or her own face. The same use of the singular applies to individual items of clothing with reflexive verbs. Of course, if the noun refers to more than one item, the plural of the noun is used.

Se quitan **el sombrero** para saludar.
Estos chicos no se limpian **las uñas**.

*They take off **their hats** to greet you.*
*These kids do not clean **their nails**.*

Typical verbs

bañarse	to bathe, take a bath	maquillarse	to put on makeup
cortarse	to cut	peinarse	to comb one's hair
destaparse	to uncover, take off	pintarse (los labios)	to put on lipstick
lavarse	to wash	taparse	to cover
limarse (las uñas)	to file (one's nails)		

ejercicio

8-2

En español. Escribe la forma apropiada del verbo y el pronombre reflexivo.

1. I cut my nails. _____
2. Lana combs her hair. _____
3. We wash our hands. _____
4. The clowns (**payasos**) put makeup on. _____
5. I cover myself with a blanket. _____
6. The receptionist is filing her nails. _____

Reflexive Constructions with Stem-Changing and Irregular Verbs

Stem-Changing Verbs in Reflexive Constructions

The following list contains several reflexive verbs with stem changes in the present. Review them before doing the next exercise. If necessary, consult the unit on verbs with stem changes (Unit 2) for a more extensive review.

acostarse (o > ue)	to go to bed	me acuesto
despedirse (e > i)	to say good-bye	me despido
despertarse (e > ie)	to wake up	me despierto
desvestirse (e > i)	to get undressed	me desvisto
dormirse (o > ue)	to go to sleep	me duermo
probarse (o > ue)	to try on (<i>clothing</i>)	me pruebo
sentarse (e > ie)	to sit down	me siento
torcerse (o > ue)	to twist	me tuerzo
vestirse (e > i)	to get dressed	me visto

ejercicio

8-3

¿Qué hacen? Escribe la forma apropiada del presente del verbo reflexivo entre paréntesis.

- Hace calor y Marcela _____ (vestirse) con ropa ligera (*light*).
- En la tienda, las señoras _____ (probarse) unos sombreros muy elegantes.
- Antes de darse un baño, Ana _____ (desvestirse).
- Todos los días, los chicos _____ (despedirse) de sus amigos antes de regresar a casa.
- Casi todas las noches yo _____ (acostarse) a las 11 de la noche.
- Tom nunca _____ (dormirse) antes de la medianoche.

Irregular Reflexive Verbs

Many irregular verbs are used in reflexive constructions.

Me pongo el abrigo.

I put on my coat.

Here are a few irregular verbs used in reflexive constructions. Examples are given in the present and with the *yo* form:

distraerse	to distract oneself	me distraigo
irse	to leave	me voy
reponerse	to get better	me repongo
sostenerse	to support, sustain oneself	me sostengo

Note: Many of these verbs are compounds of irregular verbs like **tener**, **traer**, etc., and are conjugated like the basic verb. Not all the English equivalents are expressed with *-self* or *-selves*.

The Use of Reflexive Verbs in Spanish

Reflexive verbs and pronouns are used:

- to describe actions related to personal care and habitual routines.

Se lavan los dientes.

Por la noche, **me siento** para ver mi telenovela en español.

They brush/clean their teeth.

At night, I sit (down) to watch my soap opera in Spanish.

- to express feelings and emotions or changes in conditions, moods, and emotional states. In English, the verbs *to get*, *to become*, or a non-reflexive construction communicate these ideas.

Vi la película y **me enamoré** de Mel Gibson.

Nos divertimos mucho con estos chistes.

Allan **se enferma** cada vez que **se moja**.

Bella **se enoja** con su contable si tiene que pagar más impuestos.

I saw the movie and I fell in love with Mel Gibson.

We have fun (enjoy ourselves) with these jokes.

Allan gets sick every time he gets wet.

Bella gets upset with her accountant if she has to pay more taxes.

Review the following list of verbs. Note that some are used with or without certain prepositions. Some of the English equivalents require corresponding prepositions, while others do not.

aburrirse (de)	to get bored (with)
acordarse (de)	to remember
alegrarse (de)	to be glad, rejoice (about)
convertirse (en)	to become
disgustarse (de, con)	to become upset (over, about, with)
divertirse (con)	to enjoy oneself (with)
enfermarse	to become ill, get sick
enloquecerse	to drive oneself crazy; to go crazy
enojarse (con)	to get mad, angry (about, with)
olvidarse (de)	to forget
volverse	to become

ejercicio

8-4

En español.

- I get upset. _____
- She gets sick easily. _____
- We get bored in this class. _____
- You (Ud.) forget the rules. _____
- Ines is glad. _____
- He becomes (**volverse**) an animal! _____

7. How do you (Uds.) remember? _____
8. They become upset. _____
9. I enjoy the movies. _____
10. Marcos goes crazy. _____

ejercicio

8-5

¿Eres sensible (sensitive)? Indica sí o no.

- _____ 1. ¿Te enojas cuando los vecinos hacen ruido por la noche?
- _____ 2. ¿Te disgustas si llegas tarde a tu trabajo?
- _____ 3. ¿Te olvidas del cumpleaños de tu supervisor?
- _____ 4. ¿Te alegras cuando tu rival pierde a su novio(a)?
- _____ 5. ¿Te enfermas de los nervios si tu jefe te regaña?
- _____ 6. ¿Te acuerdas de las fechas más importantes para tus familiares?
- _____ 7. ¿Te niegas a cooperar con los trabajos de la casa?
- _____ 8. ¿Te aburres en el trabajo todos los días?
- _____ 9. ¿Te arrepientes inmediatamente después de pelear con un amigo?
- _____ 10. ¿Te muerdes las uñas cuando ves una película de horror?

Verbs That Change Meaning When Used as Reflexive Verbs

Numerous verbs may be used as reflexive or non-reflexive. In many cases, the basic meaning of the verb changes in the reflexive form.

Lavamos el coche.

We wash the car.

Nos lavamos las manos.

We wash our hands.

The meaning in these two examples changes slightly. In the reflexive form (the second example), the action is directed to the subject; in the first, the car receives the action. However, note the more significant change in meaning in the next two examples:

Los soldados **acuerdan** no pelear más.

The soldiers agree not to fight any longer.

Nos acordamos de traer el dinero.

We remember to bring the money.

Compare the change in meaning of the following verbs, non-reflexive versus reflexive. This is of course a selected list; almost any Spanish verb may be used in both a non-reflexive and a reflexive construction.

Basic meaning

Reflexive meaning

acercar	to bring near
acordar (o > ue)	to agree
acostar (o > ue)	to put to bed
colocar	to place
dormir (o > ue)	to sleep
enfermar	to make ill, sick
engañar	to deceive
esconder	to hide (<i>something</i> or <i>someone</i>)
llamar	to call
llevar	to take
negar (e > ie)	to deny
parecer	to appear
preparar	to prepare
probar (o > ue)	to try, test; to taste
quitar	to take away
sentir (e > ie)	to feel
volver (o > ue)	to return

acercarse	to get closer
acordarse	to remember
acostarse	to go to bed
colocarse	to get a job
dormirse	to fall asleep
enfermarse	to become ill, get sick
engañarse	to deceive oneself
escondarse	to hide
llamarse	to be called, named
llevarse con	to get along with (<i>someone</i>)
negarse	to refuse
parecerse a	to look like (<i>someone</i>)
prepararse	to get ready
probarse	to try on
quitarse	to take off
sentirse	to feel (<i>emotionally</i> or <i>physically</i>)
volverse	to become

ejercicio

8-6

¿Reflexivo o no? Choose the verb with the basic or the reflexive meaning that fits the sentence. Then write the appropriate form of the verb in the present tense.

1. Ahora, Ted _____ (preparar/prepararse) la sopa para nosotros.
2. Ted también _____ (preparar/prepararse) para una fiesta.
3. Si tú tomas la sopa de Ted, tú _____ (enfermar/enfermarse).
4. ¡Esa sopa _____ (enfermar/enfermarse) a cualquiera!
5. Elisa _____ (probar/probarse) la sopa.
6. Ahora ella _____ (probar/probarse) un vestido nuevo para ir a la fiesta.
7. Luisa _____ (quitar/quitarse) los zapatos.
8. Nancy _____ (quitar/quitarse) los platos de la mesa.
9. Yo _____ (llevar/llevarse) bien con todos mis parientes.
10. Nosotros _____ (llevar/llevarse) los platos a los invitados.
11. Luis _____ (acostar/acostarse) a los niños a las ocho.
12. Berta _____ (acostar/acostarse) en el sofá.

The Commands in Reflexive Constructions

In the previous examples and exercises you have seen reflexive pronouns precede the conjugated verb in simple tenses. Reflexive pronouns precede perfect (compound) tenses as well.

Los gimnastas se han preparado para las olimpiadas.	<i>The gymnasts have prepared themselves for the Olympic games.</i>
No se habían engañado.	<i>They had not fooled themselves.</i>

Reflexive verbs and reflexive constructions are also used in commands (imperative forms; see Chapter 16). Before creating a command with a reflexive pronoun, note whether the command is negative or affirmative.

- With affirmative commands, attach the pronoun to the command.

Cepíllense los dientes antes de acostarse.	<i>Brush your teeth before you go to bed.</i>
Llévese Ud. estos papeles.	<i>Take these papers with you.</i>

- In the case of two object pronouns, place the reflexive pronoun (indirect object) *before* any direct object pronoun that may appear in the same sentence. Note that both pronouns are attached to the command in that order:

¡Mesero! Este pescado no huele bien.	<i>Waiter! This fish does not smell good.</i>
¡ Lléveselo!	<i>Take it away (with you)!</i>

Remember to place an accent mark on the stressed vowel of the affirmative command if a reflexive pronoun is followed by another pronoun.

La cena está lista. ¡ Sírvansela!	<i>Dinner is ready. Serve it (to yourselves)!</i>
¿Por qué llevas los zapatos mojados?	<i>Why are you wearing wet shoes? Take them off!</i>
¡ Quítatelos!	

- With negative commands, follow the general rule for sentences and place the pronoun before the verb.

No se lave Ud. el pelo con ese jabón.	<i>Do not wash your hair with that soap.</i>
¡ No os olvidéis de enviarme la carta!	<i>Do not forget to send me the letter!</i>

ejercicio

8-7

¡Practica! Escribe la forma del mandato del verbo entre paréntesis. Escribe el acento si es necesario.

1. No _____ . (levantarse/tú)
2. ¡_____! (subirse/Ud.)
3. No _____ . (asustarse/tú)
4. ¡_____! (acostarse/vosotros)
5. ¡_____ los zapatos! (quitarse/Uds.)

6. No _____. (dormirse/tú)
7. Vengan y _____ el abrigo. (quitarse/Uds.)
8. Marta, _____. (prepararse/tú)

ejercicio

8-8

¿Cuál es la traducción apropiada? Subraya la respuesta para cada oración.

1. Try them (*m.*) on! (Uds.) ¡Pruébenselos! | ¡Pruébenselas!
2. Carlos, put it (*m.*) on. (tú) Carlos, pónstela | pónstelo.
3. Do not shave here. (Uds.) No te afeites aquí. | No se afeiten aquí.
4. Cut it (*m.*), Laura. (tú) Córstela | Córstalo, Laura.
5. Dry it (*f.*) up! (Ud.) ¡Séquela! | ¡Sécala!
6. Get closer. (Uds.) Acércate. | Acérquense.
7. Prepare them (*m.*) now. (Uds.) Prepárenlos | Prepáralos ahora.
8. Please, take them (*m.*) with you. (tú) Por favor, llévastelas | llévate los.

The Infinitive and Present Participle in Reflexive Constructions

As a rule, reflexive pronouns precede both the simple and compound tenses of conjugated verbs. With a present participle (**gerundio** in Spanish), the verb forms that end in **-ando**, **-iendo** (equivalents of *-ing* in English), or with an infinitive, two options are possible:

- Reflexive pronouns may be attached to either verbal form.

Estoy durmiéndome.

I am falling asleep.

Quiero acostarme.

I want to go to bed.

- Or, pronouns may precede conjugated forms that end with an infinitive or a **gerundio**.

Me estoy durmiendo.

I am falling asleep.

Me quiero acostar.

I want to go to bed.

Remember to place the reflexive pronoun (indirect object) before any direct object pronoun that may appear in the construction.

¿Dónde está mi sombrero? Quiero
ponérmelo.

Where is my hat? I want to put it on.

¿Y mis guantes? Me los quiero poner.

And my gloves? I want to put them on.

Notice the added accent mark on the original stressed vowel when the attached pronoun(s) add one or more syllables to a multi-syllable **gerundio** or infinitive, as is the case in **durmiéndome** and **ponérmelo** in the above examples. There is no accent mark if the verb form with pronouns naturally maintains its stressed vowel (**levantarme**, **dormirse**, etc.).

ejercicio

8-9

Y en tu caso... ¿Es verdadero o falso?

- _____ 1. Me gusta levantarme temprano.
- _____ 2. Ahora, estoy cepillándome los dientes.
- _____ 3. Me gusta probarme la ropa en la tienda.
- _____ 4. Estoy quitándome los zapatos.
- _____ 5. Voy a dormirme por unos minutos.
- _____ 6. Antes de bañarme, siempre me desvisto.
- _____ 7. Estoy secándome el pelo con la secadora.
- _____ 8. Voy a sentarme en un sofá.
- _____ 9. Me estoy vistiendo ahora.
- _____ 10. Voy a ponerme el pijama esta noche.
- _____ 11. ¡Estoy volviéndome loco(a) con este capítulo!

ejercicio

8-10

Consejos y mandatos. Escribe la letra de la frase que indica un consejo (advice) o mandato apropiado.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| _____ 1. ¿Tienes frío y tienes un abrigo? | a. Cálmate. |
| _____ 2. ¿Te gustan estos zapatos? | b. Duérmete. |
| _____ 3. Tienes el pelo muy largo. | c. Quítatelos. |
| _____ 4. Estás muy nerviosa. | d. ¡Póntelo! |
| _____ 5. ¿Estás muy aburrida? | e. Despídete. |
| _____ 6. Tienes la cara sucia. | f. Escóndete. |
| _____ 7. ¿No quieres que te vean? | g. Lávatela. |
| _____ 8. ¿Tienes calor con esos guantes? | h. Córdatelo. |
| _____ 9. ¿Tienes mucho sueño? | i. Pruébatelos. |
| _____ 10. ¿Vas a salir ahora? | j. ¡Diviértete! |

ejercicio 8-11

En la tienda. Traduce. Usa el vocabulario útil.

Carlos and Alexandra go shopping frequently. Alex tries on expensive dresses at the store, but Carlos does not get angry. Usually, she does not spend a lot of money, but she takes a long time shopping. Alex goes to the fitting room, she undresses, she tries on several dresses of famous designers, she looks at herself in the mirror, and she forgets about Carlos. He gets tired of waiting, sits on a sofa, and falls asleep. While Carlos sleeps, Alex goes to the shoe department and puts on several pairs of shoes. Then she goes to the perfume and makeup section, and she buys herself several beauty products. She knows Carlos does not get upset because she does not spend too much money. Later, Alex says good-bye to the saleslady, and she meets Carlos. He wakes up. He is surprised because Alex is carrying many packages, and he worries a bit. Alex says she does not spend too much money, and Carlos calms down. They go to the cafeteria, and they have an afternoon snack. As usual, it is late, and they decide it is not worth it to go to the men's department.

vocabulario útil			
as usual	como siempre	to be surprised	sorprenderse
beauty product	el producto de belleza	to be worried	preocuparse
designer	el/la diseñador(-a)	to be worth it	valer la pena
fitting room	el probador	to calm oneself	tranquilizarse
makeup	el maquillaje	to get tired	cansarse
men's department	el departamento de caballeros	to have an afternoon snack	merendar (e > ie)
pair of shoes	el par de zapatos	to meet (someone)	reunirse
shoe department	la zapatería	to say good-bye	despedirse (e > i)

Reflexive Constructions in Reciprocal Actions

The plural forms of the reflexive constructions in Spanish are also used to indicate reciprocal actions between or among people, animals, or objects. Note the English and Spanish equivalents. Use a reflexive construction to indicate:

- mutual actions with the plural forms of reflexive verbs and the corresponding pronouns. The equivalent in English is the phrase *each other*:

Pedro y yo **nos ayudamos**.
Mi gato y mi perro **se pelean** todos los días.

Pedro and I help each other.
My cat and my dog fight with each other every day.

- Use the phrases **el uno al otro**, **la una a la otra**, **los unos a los otros**, **las unas a las otras**, or the adverb **mutuamente** to point out the reciprocal use of the reflexive pronouns when the context is not sufficiently clear.

Nunca nos enfadamos **el uno con el otro**.

We are never upset with each other.

Ellos se ven en el espejo.

They see themselves in the mirror.

Ellos se ven mutuamente en el espejo.

They see each other in the mirror.

In the first example, without any added clarification, **nos enfadamos** could mean either *We get angry* or *We get angry at each other*. If we add the adverb **mutuamente** to the second example, we clarify the message (as in the third example), and we understand *they see each other* (or *one another*) *in the mirror*.

ejercicio

8-12

En español.

1. Amanda and I hug (**abrazarse**) each other. _____
2. You (**Uds.**) see yourselves in the mirror. _____
3. The two teams admire each other. _____
4. The children always quarrel (**pelearse**) with each other. _____
5. Do you (**Uds.**) know one another? _____
6. We help each other. _____
7. My husband and I respect one another. _____
8. Carlos and his brother talk to each other every day. _____
9. Do you (**vosotros**) see each other very often? _____
10. My friends greet (**saludarse**) each other. _____
11. We understand each other. _____
12. Julia and Jena brush their hair. _____

How to Express to Become in Spanish

In Unit 6 you studied how to express *to become* in Spanish and how to use it in the preterit. Remember that **poner(se)**, **volver(se)**, and **hacer(se)** are reflexive verbs used with reflexive pronouns to communicate equivalents of *to become*. In Spanish, each of these constructions suggests a specific idea and offers a subtle distinction not present in the other two.

The following constructions express *to become* in Spanish:

- Use **ponerse** + adjective to express changes of an emotional or physical nature, which do not require a conscious effort.

Él se pone pálido cuando su jefe le habla.

He becomes pale when his boss speaks to him.

Él se puso triste.

He became sad.

- **Volverse** + adjective is used to express an involuntary sudden change.

Carlos **se volvió loco**.

Carlos became (went) crazy.

- Use **hacerse** + noun or adjective to express the attainment of a profession or social status that requires a considerable effort.

Puedes hacerte contable, si estudias.
Juan **se hizo** una persona respetable.

You can become an accountant if you study.
Juan became a respectable person.

ejercicio

8-13

¿Verdadero o falso?

- _____ 1. Si piensas mucho puedes volverte loco(a).
- _____ 2. Nos ponemos furiosos(as) si se ríen de nosotros(as).
- _____ 3. Nos ponemos contentos(as) cuando nos critican.
- _____ 4. Si estudias sicología, puedes hacerte ingeniero(a).
- _____ 5. Te haces un(a) tenista famoso(a) si practicas todos los días.
- _____ 6. Cuando pierdo mis llaves me vuelvo loco(a).
- _____ 7. Podemos hacernos ricos(as) si ahorramos disciplinadamente.
- _____ 8. Cuando nuestro equipo no gana, nos ponemos tristes.
- _____ 9. Si comes demasiado te pones flaco(a) (*thin*).

ejercicio

8-14

¿Qué pasa en estas circunstancias? Subraya la forma apropiada de hacerse, volverse o ponerse de acuerdo al contexto de las oraciones siguientes.

1. Emilio (se hace | se pone | se vuelve) nervioso cuando tiene que hablar en público.
2. Tú no (te haces | te pones | te vuelves) rico porque no tienes metas (*goals*).
3. Nosotros (nos hacemos | nos ponemos | nos volvemos) felices cuando llegan las vacaciones.
4. Si el jefe envía un email a Felipe, ¡él (se hace | se pone | se vuelve) loco!
5. Cuando llega el invierno, tú (te haces | te pones | te vuelves) triste.
6. ¡Los niños (se hacen | se ponen | se vuelven) contentos cuando les llevamos regalos!

7. Nadie (se hace | se pone | se vuelve) millonario sin trabajar mucho.
8. Nosotros (nos hacemos | nos ponemos | nos volvemos) histéricos con esta mala noticia.

ejercicio

8-15

En español.

1. Lina gets angry when she works too much. _____
2. I become very nervous when you (tú) shout! _____
3. People (**la gente**, singular) become crazy when there is a party. _____
4. (Tú) Do not get angry! _____
5. Who becomes an expert without experience? _____

The Reflexive Construction in Other Tenses

In this unit, you have practiced reflexive constructions mostly in the present tense, along with infinitives and commands. Reflexive constructions are used in all tenses, present, past, and future, as well as in all moods: indicative, subjunctive, conditional, and imperative. As always, the appropriate reflexive pronouns are required.

Los chicos se acostaron a las ocho.

Mientras **se reían**, **nosotros nos divertíamos** también.

Me bañaré antes de acostarme.

Ellos se acostarían.

The children went to bed at eight.

While they laughed, we were having fun too.

I will take a bath before going to bed.

They would go to bed.

As usual, the context will help you determine the tense or mood you need. If necessary, review certain units on verb tenses or moods in this book.

ejercicio

8-16

Las almas gemelas. Traduce. Usa el vocabulario útil.

One day, Ariela woke up early. She looked at herself in the mirror. She washed her face. She put on her new lipstick and she combed her hair. She had a new hairstyle, a ponytail. She was happy with her new look. Then, she got dressed. She put on her new outfit. She walked out of her house and she saw her new neighbor, Zoe. Ariela and Zoe looked at each other. They greeted each other and then they laughed. They had the same hairdo and the same outfit! Ariela took out her camera, they smiled, and now they have the picture. Since then, Ariela and Zoe speak to each other every day. They are soul mates.

vocabulario útil

hairdo
lipstick
new look
outfit

el peinado
el lápiz/la barra de labios
el nuevo look
el conjunto

ponytail
since then
soul mate
to put on lipstick

la cola de caballo
desde entonces
el alma gemela
pintarse los labios