

Spanish Reflexive Verbs

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Pronouns, Daily Routines & Meaning Changes

What are reflexive verbs?

The action reflects back on the subject. Identified by -se ending: lavarse (to wash oneself), levantarse (to get up)

Reflexive Pronouns

Subject	Pronoun	Example	Meaning
yo	me	me lavo	I wash myself
tú	te	te lavas	you wash yourself
él/ella/Ud.	se	se lava	he/she washes himself/herself
nosotros	nos	nos lavamos	we wash ourselves
vosotros	os	os laváis	you all wash yourselves
ellos/Uds.	se	se lavan	they wash themselves

Pronoun Placement

Before conjugated verb:	Me levanto temprano.	I get up early.
Attached to infinitive:	Voy a ducharme. / Me voy a duchar.	(both correct)
Attached to gerund:	Estoy vistiéndome. / Me estoy vistiendo.	(add accent)
Attached to command:	¡Siéntate! / ¡No te sientes!	(affirmative/negative)

Common Reflexive Verbs

Daily Routine

despertarse	to wake up
levantarse	to get up
ducharse	to shower
lavarse	to wash oneself
vestirse	to get dressed
acostarse	to go to bed

Emotions & Actions

sentirse	to feel
preocuparse	to worry
enojarse	to get angry
divertirse	to have fun
acordarse	to remember
olvidarse	to forget

Examples: *Me desperto a las 7.*

I wake up at 7.

Nos divertimos mucho.

We have a lot of fun.

¿Te acuerdas de ella?

Do you remember her?

Verbs That Change Meaning with SE

Without SE

ir (to go)
dormir (to sleep)
poner (to put)
llamar (to call)
quedar (to remain)

With SE

irse (to leave/go away)
dormirse (to fall asleep)
ponerse (to put on / become)
llamarse (to be called)
quedarse (to stay)

Example

<i>Me voy.</i> = I'm leaving.
<i>Se durmió.</i> = He fell asleep.
<i>Se puso triste.</i> = He became sad.
<i>Me llamo Ana.</i> = My name is Ana.
<i>Me quedé en casa.</i> = I stayed home.

Useful Resources

Reflexive Verbs Guide

spanishgrammar.co.uk/reflexive-verbs

40 Common Reflexive Verbs

spanishgrammar.co.uk/40-common-reflexive-verbs

Verbs That Change Meaning

spanishgrammar.co.uk/reflexive-verbs-change-meaning