I'm not a robot

Reciprocal verbs are used to talk about reciprocal actions in Spanish. In short, this type of verb is crucial for effective communication. So, in this reciprocal verbs Spanish guide, youll find: What Are Spanish Reciprocal Verbs? Reciprocal verbs in Spanish indicate that two or more people perform an action upon each other (reciprocal action). Simply put, these verbs refer to a mutual or shared action between the subjects involved. Here are several examples of reciprocal actions: Nosotros siempre nos ayudamos.We always help each other. John y Allison se abrazaron.John and Allison hugged each other. In Spanish grammar, a reciprocal verb describes actions or events done by two or more subjects that are also the direct object. Take sentence #2 as an example. In that sentence, abrazarse is used reciprocally. In simple words, this means that both John and Allison are doing (hugging) and receiving the action (being hugged). Like other pronominal verbs in Spanish, reciprocal verbs end with the pronoun se (such as abrazarse). Youll learn what this ending means in the conjugation section. Take Note: You can only use these verbs if the action is reciprocated. If this is not the case, you must use direct object pronouns yo la abrazo (I hug her). Reciprocal vs reflexive verbs in Spanish Reciprocals and reflexive verbs in Spanish are often confused because they both use reflexive pronouns, and their subject is also the object of the sentence. However, these verbs are not the same. In Spanish, a reflexive verb conveys a reflexive action. Simply put, they communicate that the subject performs the action on oneself. On the other hand, a reciprocal verb in Spanish expresses a mutual action, something we do upon each other. Check these reciprocal and reflexive sentences: Reflexive actionReciprocal actionNosotros nos baamos con agua fra.We shower with cold water.Nos queremos mucho.We loved each other so much. A reflexive verb (sentence on the left), describes actions people (subjects) do on themselves. This example refers to our daily routine. Reflexive verbs can have singular or plural subjects. However, reciprocal verbs in Spanish always come in plural form because they communicate that two or more participants perform and receive an action. Take Note: In Spanish, not all verbs ending in se are necessarily reflexive or reciprocal. Some verbs require a pronominal pronoun to keep their meaning. Theyre called idiomatic pronominal verbs. How to Conjugate Reciprocal Verbs & Use Pronouns Reciprocal verbs in Spanish always use plural conjugations. Additionally, you must also use the corresponding reciprocal pronoun. In Spanish, the reciprocal pronouns are: (Nosotros) Nos(Vosotros) Os(Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes) Se Take Note: You can use the acronym NOSE (no s) to remember these pronouns. Aside from this, youll follow the same steps youll use to conjugate reflexive verbs in Spanish. Remove the infinitive ending and add the tense endings you need. Check this conjugation table in the present form: SaludarseQuererse DespedirseNosotros nos saludamosNosotros nos queremosNosotros nos despedimosVosotros os saludisVosotros os querisVosotros os despedsEllos se saludanEllos se quierenEllos se despiden A reciprocal verb in Spanish is the equivalent of the English reciprocal pronouns each other or one other. For the most part, this is the translation youll use. However, there might be some occasions where an English sentence doesnt need to include these words. Take Note: Depending on the context, each other can also be translated as: uno al otro, entre ellos, entre nosotros, mutuamente (mutually). These expressions can be added to your reciprocal sentence. However, its only purpose is to intensify it since youre already expressing reciprocity with the pronouns. Vosotros os ayudis uno al otro todo el tiempo.You guys help each other all the time. Reflexive Pronouns vs Reciprocal Pronouns As you learn Spanish grammar, youll realize that Spanish is inundated with a plethora of different types of pronouns. The good news is that pronouns for reciprocal and reflexive verbs overlap, so you only need to understand the two sets and the rule. SubjectReflexive PronounReciprocal PronounYoMeTTel / Ella / UstedSeNosotrosNosNosVosotrosOsOsEllos / Ellas / UstedesSeSe The table above shows the two sets of pronouns so you can quickly see which are used for reflexive verbs and reciprocals, respectively. As you can see, plural pronouns are used for both. However, reflexive verbs can also use singular pronouns since an individual person can perform an action on him- or herself whereas reciprocal actions can only be performed on 2 or more people (each other). List of Common Reciprocal Verbs in Spanish Now that you understand what these verbs are and how to use them, here is a list of common reciprocal verbs in Spanish: Abrazarse: To hug / To holdAmarse: To loveApoyarse: To supportAyudarse: To helpBesarse: To kissConocerse: To meet / To knowDespedirse: To say goodbyeEntenderse: To understandExtraarse: To missFelicitarse: To congratulateIgnorarse: To ignoreInsultarse: To insultLlevarse: To get alongMotivarse: To motivateOdiarse: To hatePelearse: To argue / To fightPerdonarse: To forgiveQuererse: To loveReconciliarse: To reconcileRespetarse: To respectSaludarse: To greetTocarse: To touch Here are some reciprocal sentences: Vosotros os motivis a ser mejores.You guys motivate each other to be better. Luis y James nunca se llevaron bien.Luis and James never liked each other. Cmo se conocieron mi pap y t?How did you and dad meet? David y Nancy se ignoraron todo el da.David and Nancy ignored each other all day. Mis amigas y yo nos queremos mucho.My friends and I love each other very much. Take Note: Reciprocals are transitive verbs, which means they take an object which is also the subject of the sentence. As established before, if the action is not reciprocated, you will use a direct object. Reciprocal Verbs Spanish Resources Here are some useful links to help you get more comfortable with this topic. For starters, get familiar with reflexive pronouns (also called pronominal) since youll use some of them with reciprocal verbs. Also, check how to conjugate reflexive verbs in Spanish. This will help you understand what to do when conjugating a reciprocal verb. In fact, the following conjugation guide will show you how to conjugate these verbs in different tenses: Remember that you only need to pay attention to the plural forms (nosotros, vosotros, etc) with reciprocals. Before diving deeper into other parts of grammar, you can also check out the Spanish verbs guide which gives a complete overview of everything you need to know. Download the Spanish Reciprocal Verbs PDF Cheat Sheet Grammar topics like Spanish reflexive verbs and reciprocals can be challenging for new learners to understand. However, it is a Spanish beginner topic that is critical to your conversation skills and fluency. Ive compiled a free PDF you can download on reciprocal verbs and pronouns, where youll get the list of reciprocal actions, understand the key differences between reflexive verbs and pronouns and the reciprocals and more. AbrazarSE, quedarSE, levantarSE, mirarSE We know its easy to get confused trying to determine when a Spanish verbo is reflexivo or recproco, so we have prepared a practical guide to help you out! VERBOS REFLEXIVOS: Los verbos reflexivos son aquellos en los cuales el sujeto que realiza la accin del verbo tambin la recibe. En otras palabras, el sujeto realiza y recibe la accin al mismo tiempo. Estos verbos siempre van acompaados de un pronombre reflexivo que concuerda con la persona que realiza la accin: Muchos verbos reflexivos se usan para hablar de acciones cotidianas o rutinas. Todos los verbos reflexivos terminan en -SE: Actividades cotidianas: acostarse, levantarse, despertarse, baarse, vestirse, cepillarse, peinarse, maquillarse, etc. Acciones de movimiento o emociones: irse, quedarse, sentarse, pararse (movimiento); quejarse, sentirse, enojarse, rerse, preocuparse (emociones). VERBOS RECPROCOS: Los verbos recprocos son similares a los reflexivos, pero la diferencia es que en estos casos, la accin se realiza entre dos o ms personas. Es decir, el sujeto realiza la accin hacia otra persona y esa persona hace lo mismo hacia l/ella. En los verbos recprocos, se utilizan los pronombres se, nos y os: Relaciones personales: mirarse, amarse, besarse, abrazarse, escribirse, saludarse, etc. Click HEREto continue learning more about Spanish verbos and other grammar topics. Activities for Private Students & Members: View subscription plans OR Login To Unlock The Content! Home Spanish Grammar Rules Reciprocal Actions in Spanish Reciprocal verbs in Spanish (verbos recprocos en espaol) are used to indicate reciprocal actions between people, objects or animals. Reciprocal actions contain a reflexive pronoun in the plural forms. Reflexive verbsindicate that the action of the verb reflects back on the subject. For example, someone cleaning, showering or shaving himself or herself. On the other hand,reciprocal verbsoccur when two subjects are performing the same action on each other. For example, two people helping, hugging or fighting each other. Also see reflexive verbs and pronouns in Spanish. Reciprocal verbs are placed in the same way as reflexive verbs, in terms of the position of the pronouns with conjugated verbs, imperatives, infinitives, and gerunds.Use reciprocal verbs in mutual actions with the plural forms of reflexive verbs. The English equivalent of this use is the phrase each other.Examples:Sam y yo nos amamos.Sam and I love each other.Se estn ustedes peleando?Are you fighting each other?Nos podemos llamar mientras est en Grecia.We can call each other while youre in Greece. Understanding or translating reflexive or reciprocal sentences in Spanish where there are two or more subjects can be confusing because they can be ambiguous without qualifiers. Learn how these types of sentences are constructed and how to eliminate ambiguity in Spanish using two common phrases. First, let us define and expand upon what areflexive sentence is. The pronoun se is commonly used (although it has many other uses as well) to indicate that a person is performing some type of action on or toward that person. For example, "se ve" can mean "he sees himself" and "se hablaba" can mean "she was talking to herself." The confusion with reflexive sentences can come when the subject of such sentences is plural. See, for example, how the following Spanish sentences are ambiguous. Either of the translations given after the Spanish sentence is valid: Se ayudaron. (They helped themselves. They helped each other.)Se golpean. (They are hitting themselves. They are hitting each other.)Pablo y Molly se aman. (Pablo and Molly love themselves. Pablo and Molly love each other.) The same ambiguity can exist in the first and second persons as well: Nos daamos. (We hurt ourselves. We hurt each other.)Nos amamos. (We love ourselves. We love each other.)Os odiis? (Do you hate yourselves? Do you hate each other?) The problem occurs because in Spanish the plural reciprocal pronouns are the same as the reflexive pronouns; they are nos in the first person, os in the second person, and se in the third person. (Note that in Latin America os is seldom used, as se is typically used in both the second- and third-person plurals.) This is in contrast with English where the reflexive pronouns in the plural are "ourselves," "yourselves," and "themselves"but the reciprocal pronouns are "each other" and "one another." Most of the time, the context of the sentence will make clear what meaning is intended. If the context does not help, there are two very common phrases that can be used to eliminate the ambiguity. First, the idiom a s mismos is commonly used to indicate that a reflexive meaning is intendedin other words, that the subjects are acting on themselves rather than each other. For example: Se aman a s mismos. (They love themselves.)No pueden verse a s mismos. (They can't see themselves.)Es importante que nos escuchemos a s mismos. (It is important that we listen to ourselves.) If all the persons involved are female, or if the names of all subjects are grammatically feminine, the feminine form a s mismas should be used: Cmo se perciben a s mismas las mujeres con la infertilidad? (How do women with infertility perceive themselves?)Cudense a s mismas. (Take care of yourselves.)Estas piernas robticas son capaces de ensearse a s mismas a andar. (These robotic legs are capable of teaching themselves to walk.) Second, the phrase el uno al otro, which can be literally translated as "one to the other," is the rough equivalent of "each other": No debemos hacernos eso el uno al otro. (We shouldn't do that to each other._Se golpean el uno al otro. (They are hitting each other.)El ordenador y el monitor se necesitan el uno al otro.)The computer and the monitor need each other.)Os odiis el uno al otro? (Do you two hate each other?) El uno al otro can also be used in feminine and/or plural variations: Pablo y Molly se aman el uno a la otra. (Pablo and Molly love each other.)Se abrazaban la una a la otra. (The two females hugged each other._No se cuidan los unos a los otros. (They (multiple persons) don't take care of each other.) Reflexive pronouns are used to indicate that two or more persons or things are acting on themselves, while reciprocal pronouns are used to indicate that two or more persons or things are acting on themselves.Although English has separate reflexive and reciprocal pronouns, in Spanish they are identical.Spanish can use the phrases a s mismos (or a s mismas) and el uno al otro (with variations for number and gender) to clarify reflexive and reciprocal verbs, respectively. Reciprocal verbs are used to talk about reciprocal actions in Spanish. In short, this type of verb is crucial for effective communication. 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Check this conjugation table in the present form: SaludarseQuererse DespedirseNosotros nos saludamosNosotros nos queremosNosotros nos despedimosVosotros os saludisVosotros os querisVosotros os despedsEllos se saludanEllos se quierenEllos se despiden A reciprocal verb in Spanish is the equivalent of the English reciprocal pronouns each other or one other. For the most part, this is the translation youll use. However, there might be some occasions where an English sentence doesnt need to include these words. Take Note: Depending on the context, each other can also be translated as: uno al otro, entre ellos, entre nosotros, mutuamente (mutually). These expressions can be added to your reciprocal sentence. However, its only purpose is to intensify it since youre already expressing reciprocity with the pronouns. Vosotros os ayudis uno al otro todo el tiempo.You guys help each other all the time. 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Antonio y yo nos besamos.Antonio and I kissed each other. 1 The typical reflexive verbs are those which subject performs and undergoes the action of the verb.YomeafeitoTtelavasl, ella, ustedsepeinaNosotros, nosotrasnosafeitamosVosotros, vosotras, vososlavisEllos, ellas, ustedessepeinanIn the reflexive clauses, the reflexive pronoun may function as a direct or indirect object.Yo me afeito. (D.o. me)I se lava los pies. (I.o. se)2 The reciprocal clauses are a type of reflexive. More than one subject performs the action of the verb and at the same time gets the verb action. The clauses are only built with subjects in plural.The reciprocal verbs are always transitive: amarse, odiarse, tutearse, ayudarse, pegarse, matarse, conocerse, quererse, cartearse, esperarse, etc.Manuel y Herminio se pegaron (el uno al otro).Siempre nos ayudamos (entre nosotros).El da de San Valentn los enamorados se regalan cosas.Se may function as direct or indirect object.Ellos se quieren. (C.d.)Ellos se dan besos. (C.i.)Many times the reciprocal clause is mistaken for the reflexive.Ellos se afeitan. (= Cada una se afeita su barba) (Reflexive)Ellos se afeitan (uno a otro). (Reciprocal)To clarify the sense of the clause mutuamente, recprocamente formal or el uno al otro may be added if the clause is reciprocal; personal pronoun + mismo / misma / mismo / mismas if it is reflexive.SeeReflexive pronounsIn some cases the clauses in a reciprocal sense with the subject in singular may be found.Yo me tuteo con Toms. (= I address him as t and so does Toms.)3 False reflexive clausesThe reflexive pronoun as lexical modifier shows differences in meaning among verbs withse and without it. Sometimes, the use of the reflexive pronouns indicates that the action is perfect or finished; on the contrary, the forms without se indicate habit, costum and also invitations to begin an action.Cmete las espinacas. (= Finish your spinachs.)Come espinacas. (= Always eat spinach because they are good for your health.)Come espinacas. (= Try them.)Bbete la leche. (= Finish your glass of milk.)Bebe leche. (= Drink it always because you need calcium.)Bebe leche. (= Try it.)Quiero dormirme y no puedo. (= I want to start sleeping.)Quiero dormir, no me molestes. (= I do want not to be awake.)Augusto vino de Madrid muy cansado. (= He went to Madrid and came back.)Augusto se vino de Madrid. (= He moved.)Yo fumo (tabaco) negro. (= I never smoke Virginia tobacco.)Ayer me fum una cajetilla entera. (= I finished a pack.)Dative of interest. Sometimes the object pronoun means afective involvement of the speaker; it refers to speakers interest for a person or an object, the subject considers something to be of his own or part of him. The object pronoun could be removed and the clause will be meaningful. It is a sign of popular language and of egocentrism of the speaker.Se me ha muerto mi madre. (= Se ha muerto mi madre.)Mi nio no me come. (= Mi hijo no quiere comer.)Sometimes, the reflexive pronoun indicates that the person or thing that performs the action of the verb is unknown; in this case, the subject undergoes the action of the verb.They are called adventitious reflexive clauses.El barco se hundi.Su hijo se mat en un accidente.El cristal se ha roto.El bosque se quem.In Spanish sometimes the subject does not perform the action of the verb; the subject pays, commands or rules the action.Me he cortado el pelo. (= I went to the hairdressers, and there someone has cut my hair.)Many verbs related to the medicine are in this case.Me he vacunado contra la malaria. (= I went to a hospital and a doctor did his job.)Me he operado de cataratas. (= A surgeon has operated.)Many of these verbs seem to be reflexive: cortarse (el pelo), vacunarse, operarse, teirse (el pelo), tatuarse. But not all of them: encuadernar (un libro), construir (un palacio), ganar (una batalla), etc.Pedro el Grande construy la ciudad de Peterburgo.He encuadernado los fascculos en una papelera de mi barrio.The pronominal verbs also are built with reflexive pronouns: apoltronarse, arrepentirse, atreverse, atrofiarse, comportarse, desentenderse, desternillarse, desvivirse, dignarse, ensimismarse, extasiarse, jactarse, obstinarse, personarse, portarse, querellarse, rebelarse, suicidarse, vanagloriarse, etc. Se is part of the verbal pattern and does not perform an independent function.No me arrepiento de lo que dije.Nos hemos portado muy mal, perdnanos.They are not reflexive because nobody may arrepentirse a s mismo, nor portarse a s mismo, etc.When they take part in impersonal clauses uno or una are used.Se arrepiente una de haber hecho tanto dao a los dems.Uno no se atreve a arriesgar los ahorros. Reflexive verbs in Spanish are used to indicate actions that are performed on oneself. For example: "Me lavo", - I wash myself. Thus the verb "lavar" means "to wash" and the verb "lavarse" means "to wash oneself". The form of the reflexive verb in Spanish is the personal pronoun + reflexive pronoun + verb in its correct conjugation. For example: Personal Pronoun Reflexive Pronoun Verb Form Meaning Yo me lavo I wash myself T te lavas You wash yourself. l/ Usted se lava He washes himself. Nosotros nos lavamos Vosotros os lavas Ellos/Ustedes se lavan Reflexive pronouns in the infinitive The reflexive verb in Spanish also has a different form when used in the infinitive. For example: "Voy a acostarME" - I am going to lie down. "Vamos a acostarNOS" - We are going to lie down. In this situation the reflexive pronoun is attached to the end of the verb. There can be two ways of saying the same thing using the reflexive form of a verb. Me puedo vestir Puedo vestirme I can dress myself Te quieres baar? Quieres baarte? Do you want to bathe? Reflexive pronouns in the imperative With the imperative form, the reflexive pronoun is added to the end of the conjugated reflexive verb. For example: Acustate! Lie down! (familiar form) Vamonos! Let's go! Vrense! Turn around! (plural form) The most common reflexive verbs Verb Meaning Verb Meaning Aburrirse to be bored Reirse to laugh Despertarse to wake up Afeitarse to shave Callarse to be quiet Dedicarse to dedicate oneself Enojarse to be annoyed Quitarse to take off Acostarse to lie down Acordarse to remember Despedirse to say goodbye Maquillarse to put on makeup Baarse to bathe Olvidarse to forget (about) Taparse to cover oneself up Probarse to try (something) on Ducharse to shower Ponerse to put on Volverse to become Enfermarse to become ill Peinarse to comb one's hair Mirarse to look at oneself Colocarse to place oneself Presentarse to present oneself Preguntarse to ask oneself Comprarse to buy (for oneself) Subirse to go up Alegrarse to be happy about Levantarse to get up Morirse to die Sentirse to feel Conformarse to put up with Some more examples of reflexive verbs in Spanish in use Me llamo Miguel I am Miguel (literally "I call myself Miguel") Me despierto a las 7 am. I wake up at 7 am. Ellos se sienten incomodos. They feel uncomfortable. Nos aburrimos esperando tanto tiempo. We get bored waiting for so long. Se enojan por la demora They get annoyed because of the delay. Ustedes no se acuerdan de mi? Don't you remember me? Me alegro que ests aqu I am happy you are here. Reciprocal Verbs in Spanish The same form of verb construction is used for reciprocal verbs in Spanish. Reciprocal verbs imply a sharing or doing something together, with or for someone. Thus it is used in the plural forms "nosotros" "vosotros" "ellos/ellas". For example: Nos vemos cada da en el colegio We see each other every day in college. Ellos se llaman los fines de semana They call each other every weekend La pareja se quiere mucho. The couple loves each other very much. Vosotros dos se parecen mucho. You two look a lot like each other Interactive Exercise 1 Ejercicio. Completa las oraciones con la forma correcta del verbo reflexivo. 1. Las muchachas (ponerse) - se ponen nos ponemos te ponen se poneis de acuerdo para salir en la noche. 2. El gato (limpiarse) - es limpia me limpian se limpia te limpia con su lengua. 3. (Callarse - familiar form) - Callamosnos Callame Callanos Cllate mientras habla el profesor! 4. Yo estoy seguro que no (sentirse) - me sentir me siento sientome siento enfermo hoy. 5. T (acordarse) - te acuerdas acuerdate te acordar acuerdas del nombre del seor alto? Interactive Exercise 2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the reflexive or reciprocal verb. Note: Try to use the correct written accents if you can e.g.: , , , , , , . If you don't know the correct answer, type '?' to reveal it. 1. Yo (irse) al gimnasio esta noche. 2. T (sentirse) bien hoy? 3. l siempre (colocarse) en el primer puesto cada da. 4. Ella dice que (baarse) dos veces por da. 5. Nosotras (mirarse) siempre en estos espejos. 6. Al estar listos para salir siempre decimos " ". (irse) 7. Vosotros (vestirse) siempre de la misma forma. 8. Ellas (despedirse) con un beso cada da. 9. Ellos (preguntarse) por qu no hay clases hoy? 10. Por favor, (quitarse) este sombrero ridiculo! Topics covered in this lesson Reflexive verbs in Spanish, reciprocal verbs in Spanish - common usage. With over 10 years of experience, HSA is where your goals merge with our teachers passion: to improve your Spanish fluency. Custom-tailored to fit your needs, you choose your program, schedule, favorite teachers, pace of learning, and more..Learn More Have conversations faster, understand people when they speak fast, and other tested tips to learn faster. More info Reflexive verbs in Spanish are used all the time, and can take several forms. Mastering them is an important step in becoming a competent speaker, so we bring you this updated guide to show how and when to use reflexive verbs in Spanish. Well go step by step, starting at the beginning with what is a reflexive verb. Well introduce the reflexive pronouns, and well see where to place them in different types of sentences. Then well focus on the three major types of reflexive pronouns in Spanish: natural reflexives, reciprocal reflexives, and non-reflexive verbsthat can be used reflexively.As we do in all our lessons, well provide plenty of examplesto demonstrate how to use reflexive verbs in Spanish. Well also provide a list of reflexive verbsin Spanish for each of the three types. So without further ado, lets get started!What is a reflexive verb in Spanish?In simple terms, reflexive verbs in Spanish are used when a person performs an action on, for, or to themself.For example, I wake (myself) up, he gets (himself) dressed, she showered (herself), and so on.In other words, both the subject and the indirect object of a reflexive verb are the same person or thing.This means that the subject pronouns(yo, t, l, ella, usted, nosotros, nosotras, vosotros, vosotras, ellos, ellas, ustedes) will always be affected by the action, and will match the reflexive pronouns(me, te, se, nos, os, se). Well go into more detail on the reflexive pronouns below.How do you identify a reflexive verb?As well cover later in this post, reflexive verbscome in many forms.We can identify reflexive verbs by their verb endings in the infinitive verb form: Spanish reflexive verbs always end in se, which is the neutral reflexive pronoun. Examples are conocerse(to know each other), llamarse(to call oneself), or maquillarse(to put makeup on oneself).Before we see our first list of reflexive verbs in Spanish, however, we need to take a slight detour to review the reflexive pronouns.Recommended: How to Learn Spanish Fast in 2025What is a reflexive pronoun?The reflexive pronoun is key to identifying reflexive verbs. All Spanish reflexive verbs require a reflexive pronoun; otherwise theyre not reflexive verbs!In many cases the verb will mean something else if it doesnt have a reflexive pronoun. Sometimes it wont even make any sense at all!Lets take the verb baar, which means to bathe. In its reflexive form we add the reflexive pronoun se: baarsebecomes a reflexive verb meaning to bathe oneself.Well cover more verbs like this later. For now, lets focus on each reflexive pronoun and how to use them.What are the six reflexive pronouns in Spanish?There are actually only five reflexive pronouns in Spanish that you need to learn, since seis the same third-person pronoun for both singular and plural. Here we present all the reflexive pronouns Spanish uses, organized by grammaticalperson.Reflexive pronouns, SpanishSingularPluralFirst-personmenosSecond-personte(se)os(se)Third-personseseNote that weve only included seas second-person pronouns when they refer to ustedor ustedes, which both mean youin Spanish. In Spanish grammar, these are considered third-person pronouns, with their corresponding third-person verb conjugations. Osis rarely used outside of Spain since it corresponds to vosotrosand vosotras, which are the second-person plural pronouns for you. We explain the differences between all of these in our detailed post on You in Spanish.The reflexive pronouns in English generally end in -selfor -selves, as in myselfor yourselves. Well also see how reflexive pronouns can be used reciprocally, with translations closer to one anotheror each other. In many cases, the English pronoun is omitted entirely from the translation, even when its required in Spanish.We have a dedicated lesson on Spanish reflexive pronounswhere we go into a lot more detail, but this is enough for now so you know what they are. Now were ready to see how to use them.Where to place reflexive pronouns in a sentenceReflexive pronouns are typically placed before conjugated verbs.T teafeitas todas las semanas. You shave (yourself) every week.Yo medespierto a las 6 de la maana. I wake (myself) up at 6am.For negative commands, the reflexive pronoun is placed between the Spanish negation word noandthe conjugated verb.No sepreocupen, todo est bien. Dont worry (guys), everything is fine.There are a few sentence structures where reflexive pronouns dont have to be placed before the conjugated verbs. Well introduce each one here before we move on to the three categories of Spanish reflexive verbs.When we have a sentence that includes an infinitive verb form, the pronoun can be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the end of the infinitive verb.No sevan a saludar. They wont say hello to each other.No vas a salirtecon la tuya. You are not going to get away with it.The same placement applies when we use the progressive verb forms(equivalent to -ingin English): either before the conjugated auxiliary verb (usually estar) or attached to the end of the gerund.Meestaba duchando cuando me llamaste. I was showering when you called.Estaba lavndomela cara, perdona. I was washing my face, sorry.We saw above that with negative commands, we place the reflexive pronoun before the conjugated verb. With affirmative commands in Spanish, on the other hand, we attach the reflexive pronoun directly to the end of the conjugated verb.Levntatetemprano maana, es un da importante. Wake up early tomorrow, itsan important day.Now that weve seen a basic explanation of reflexive verbs, we can examine their use in further detail.What are the three types of reflexive verbs in Spanish?Spanish reflexive verbs can be broken down into three main categories: natural reflexives, reciprocal reflexives, and non-reflexive verbs. Well look at each one in turn in the next sections.Natural reflexivesare verbs which are easily identified as reflexive, since the pronoun seis attached to the infinitive (dormirse, baarse, arrepentirse).Me arrepientode todo lo que hice. I regreteverything I have done.Reciprocal reflexivesare used to describe an action being performed by two or more people at the same time, and normally on each other.Patricia y Ana se maquillanantes de salir. Patricia and Ana put makeup on each otherbefore going out.Many non-reflexive verbs can still be used with reflexive pronouns, in which case they take on a different meaning. For example, volveris a non-reflexive verb meaning to return, while volversemeans to become.Yo vuelvoa Asia la prxima semana. I returnto Asia next week.Ellos se volvieronamigos despus de unos aos. They becamefriends after a couple of years.So how do you use reflexive Spanish verbs? The answer to this question will depend on which type of reflexive verb you are using. Lets take a look at each of these three categories to see how to use reflexive verbs in Spanish.Natural ReflexivesNatural reflexivesare what first come to mind when we think of reflexive verbs in Spanish, since many describe actions that people generally do on themselves. In other words, these are the Spanish verbs that are most commonly used for reflexive actions.Many of these natural reflexives can be classed as routine verbs, since we use them when speaking about daily actions, routines, and personal care. These verbs are reflexive by nature, since theyre used to describe an action being performed on the subject.Some natural reflexives can still be used as non-reflexive verbs in Spanish. They often keep the same meaning, but describe the action being performed on somebody else than the subject. In these cases, we use direct object pronounsinstead of reflexive pronouns.For example, in this first sentence we use the reflexive form of afeitarse(to shave) to indicate that the subject is doing the action for themself.Yo me afeitola barba en la maana. I shavemy beard in the morning.When we use the same verb in its non-reflexive form afeitar, we indicate that the direct object of the verbs action is somebody different from the subject who is performing the action.Yo afeitola barba de mi abuelo en la tarde. I shavemy grandfathersbeard in the afternoon.You may have noticed that when we use these reflexive verbs to talk about an action we do on ourselves like shaving, we dont use the possessive adjective in Spanish. Instead, we just use the indefinite articlealong with the reflexive pronoun to convey the same meaning: yo meafeitolabarba means I shave mybeard. We explain this more in our post on possessive adjectives in Spanish.Reflexive verbs for daily actionsNow, lets review the most common reflexive verbs for speaking about daily actions. Notice that the non-reflexive forms mostly have the same meaning, except that they need to have a different direct object.To compare these reflexive vs non-reflexive verbs we could say that the former usually includes oneselfwhile the latter can include someone else(as in to shave oneselfvs to shave someone elsefor afeitarsevs afeitar, for example)Reflexive verbs, SpanishEnglishNon reflexive verbs, SpanishEnglishacostarseto lie down, to go to bedacostarto lay downafeitarseto shave oneselfafeitarto shavebaarseto bathe oneselfbaarto bathecepillarseto brush oneselfcepillarto brushdespertarseto wake updespertarto wake up, to rousedormirseto fall asleep, to go to sleepdormirto sleeplavarseto wash oneselflavarto washmaquillarseto put makeup on oneselfmaquillarto put makeup onpeinarseto comb oneselfs hairpeinarto combsentarseto sit, to take a seatsentarto seatNow lets see a few examples of how to use these reflexive Spanish verbs for daily routines.Sintateac, ya vuelvo. Sit here, Ill be right back.Siempre me ha gustado cepillarmeantes de baarme. I have always liked to brush my hairbefore taking a bath.Ve a vestirtepara salir temprano. Go and get dressedso that we can leave early.T puedes acostarteen el sof toda la noche si quieres. Yo prefiero dormirmeen mi cama. You can lieon the couch all night if you want. I prefer to fall asleepin my bed.Reflexive verbs for emotions and moodsAnother set of natural reflexives are used to describe emotions and moods. In their reflexive forms, these verbs refer to the feelings of the subject. Non-reflexively, the same verbs generally need a direct object.Here are some of the most common Spanish reflexive verbs for emotions, along with their non-reflexive counterparts.Reflexive verbs, SpanishEnglishNon reflexive verbs, SpanishEnglishaburrirseto get boredaburrirto borealegrarseto be pleased, to be happyalegrarto cheer up, to lighten upasustarseto get scared, to be frightenedasustarto scare, to frightencansarseto get tired, to tirecansarto tire, to annoydivertirseto enjoy onself, to have a good timedivertirto amusesentirseto feel (psychological)sentirto feel (physical)Lets see a few examples with these reflexive verbs of emotion.Me alegramucho que vengas. It makes me happythat youre coming.La nia se diviertecon el gatito. The girl amuses herselfwith the kitten.Me sientomenos solo con muchas plantas en casa. I feelless alone with many plants in the house.Now compare the previous examples with these next ones where we use the non-reflexive forms of the same verbs. The meanings are similar, but they require direct objects to understand who or what is being affected by the verbs action.T alegrasmi da. You brighten upmy day.El gatito diviertea la nia. The kitten amusesthe girl.Sientola tierra antes de regar las plantas. I feelthe soil before watering the plants.Truly natural reflexivesThe final set of verbs well mention in this section can only be used with the reflexive pronouns. There are no non-reflexive versions of these verbs, so they are truly natural reflexives.Unlike the other Spanish verbs we saw in the previous lists, these verbs dont have another meaning if we use them without reflexive pronouns; instead, they just wont make any sense.Reflexive verbs, SpanishEnglishadentrarseto enteradormilarseto doze offaduearseto take ownershiparrepentirseto regretcasarseto get marrieddesvestirto get undresseddesinteresarseto become disinterested, to lose interestdignarseto condescendsuicidarseto commit suicidequitarseto take offLets see a few examples of how these reflexive verbs are used.Estabas adormilndoteen el viaje hacia ac. You were getting sleepyon the way here.Debes arrepentirtede perder tanto tiempo en eso. You must regretwasting so much time on that.Este otoo, mi hermano se casacon su novia de la universidad. This fall, my brother is marryinghis sweetheart from university.Ella se desinteresuna vez que descubri mi edad. She became disinterestedonce she found out my age.To be honest, weve simplified things a bit by grouping these different Spanish reflexive verb lists together under the same banner of natural reflexives. We go into a lot more detail on how they differ in our advanced grammar post on all the different uses of Se in Spanish. For todays lesson though, this grouping is adequate for understanding how to use reflexive verbs in Spanish.Reciprocal reflexive verbsAs their name suggests, reciprocal reflexivesare verbs that describe actions that two or more subjects perform on each other at the same time. Since the action is reciprocal, we always have a plural subject and use the corresponding pl