

## Pronouns 2 – Reflexive, Generic, Indefinite – Worksheet 1 – ANSWERS



### Exercise 1: Gap-Fill (Choosing the Correct Pronoun) – Answers

1. He didn't want to ask for help, so he did it all by **himself**. (*Reflexive pronoun for singular male subject*)
2. I don't know where we are, but there must be **someone** around here who can help us. (*Indefinite pronoun for an unknown person*)
3. She looked at **herself** in the mirror before leaving for the party. (*Reflexive pronoun for singular female subject*)
4. I don't know who called, but **someone** left a message on my phone. (*Indefinite pronoun referring to an unknown person*)
5. If **anyone** wants to come to the meeting, they should let me know. (*Generic pronoun for an unspecified person*)
6. A: "I need help moving this table."  
B: "I can help! Let's do it **ourselves**." (*Reflexive pronoun for a plural subject*)
7. My parents always told me that if **one** works hard, they will succeed. (*Generic pronoun referring to people in general*)
8. The teacher said that **someone** had left their homework on the desk. (*Generic pronoun with singular "they"*)
9. We went to the mall, but there was **nothing** interesting to buy. (*Indefinite pronoun for a negative sentence*)
10. I had to fix the problem **myself** because no one else was available. (*Reflexive pronoun for emphasis on independent action*)

### Key Takeaways:

- **Reflexive pronouns** are used when the subject and object are the same person.
  - **Generic pronouns** ("one," "they," "anyone") refer to general people.
  - **Indefinite pronouns** ("someone," "nothing") refer to unspecified things or people.
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## ✓ Exercise 2: Error Correction (Fixing Mistakes in Pronoun Usage) – Answers

1. ✗ He looked at **hissself** in the mirror before leaving.  
✓ He looked at **himself** in the mirror before leaving. (Correct reflexive pronoun: "hissself" is incorrect)
2. ✗ I hope everyone enjoys **theirself** at the party tonight.  
✓ I hope everyone enjoys **themselves** at the party tonight. (Plural reflexive "themselves" for singular "everyone")
3. ✗ If someone needs help, he should ask the manager.  
✓ If someone needs help, **they** should ask the manager. (Singular "they" replaces "he" for gender neutrality)
4. ✗ I don't need **no** help with my project.  
✓ I don't need **any** help with my project. (Avoid double negative: "no" → "any")
5. ✗ Each student must submit **their own** assignments by Friday. (Incorrect in formal English!)  
✓ Each student must submit **his or her** own assignments by Friday. (More formal alternative to singular "they") (THEIR IS ALSO CORRECT)
6. ✗ Nobody **didn't** see what happened at the accident.  
✓ Nobody **saw** what happened at the accident. (Avoid double negative: "didn't" removed)
7. ✗ He should be proud of **hissself** for winning the award.  
✓ He should be proud of **himself** for winning the award. (Correct reflexive pronoun: "hissself" is incorrect)
8. ✗ You should always trust **oneself** in difficult situations.  
✓ You should always trust **yourself** in difficult situations. (Reflexive pronoun should match "you")
9. ✗ My grandparents told me that if one works hard, **they** will succeed.  
✓ My grandparents told me that if one works hard, **one** will succeed. (Consistent use of "one") (NOTE – THEY IS NOT INCORRECT HERE, CONSISTENCY IS BETTER)
10. ✗ There wasn't **no** food left in the fridge.  
✓ There wasn't **any** food left in the fridge. (Avoid double negative: "no" → "any")

### ✦ Key Takeaways:

- Avoid double negatives with indefinite pronouns.
- Use correct reflexive pronouns ("himself," "yourself," "ourselves," not "hissself").
- Use singular "they" for gender neutrality or "one" for formal writing.