

example of intensive pronoun

example of intensive pronoun serves as a crucial element in English grammar, emphasizing a noun or pronoun within a sentence to highlight the subject's involvement or action. Intensive pronouns, often confused with reflexive pronouns, play a distinct role by intensifying the subject rather than indicating that the subject and object are the same. This article explores the definition, usage, and examples of intensive pronouns, providing clarity on how they function and differ from similar grammatical constructs. Understanding intensive pronouns enhances sentence variety and clarity, making communication more precise and impactful. This detailed overview includes common examples, rules for correct usage, and distinctions from reflexive pronouns, ensuring a comprehensive grasp of the topic. The following sections break down these aspects systematically.

- Definition and Function of Intensive Pronouns
- Common Examples of Intensive Pronouns
- Differences Between Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns
- Usage Rules and Placement in Sentences
- Examples of Intensive Pronouns in Sentences
- Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Definition and Function of Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns are a specific type of pronoun used to emphasize a preceding noun or pronoun in the same sentence. Their primary function is to add emphasis to the subject, making it clear that the subject itself is performing the action with particular significance or force. Unlike other pronouns that may replace nouns or indicate possession, intensive pronouns highlight the identity or role of the subject. They do not change the fundamental meaning of a sentence but rather intensify the focus on the noun or pronoun they modify.

Role in Emphasis

The key role of an intensive pronoun is to intensify or reinforce the noun or pronoun it follows. For example, in the sentence, "The president **himself** attended the meeting," the word "himself" intensifies "the president," underscoring that it was the president personally who attended. This emphasis can convey importance, exclusivity, or direct involvement, which helps to clarify or dramatize the subject's action.

Grammatical Classification

Intensive pronouns are classified as a subset of personal pronouns with a distinctive emphasis function. They are morphologically identical to reflexive pronouns but differ in their syntactic role and meaning. The intensive pronouns include myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves,

yourselves, and themselves.

Common Examples of Intensive Pronouns

Examples of intensive pronouns are essential for recognizing and applying them correctly in writing and speech. These pronouns always end in “-self” or “-selves” and correspond to personal pronouns in the sentence.

List of Intensive Pronouns

- Myself
- Yourself
- Himself
- Herself
- Itself
- Ourselves
- Yourselves
- Themselves

Each of these pronouns serves to intensify the subject within different grammatical persons and numbers. For example, “I did the work myself” uses “myself” to emphasize the subject “I.”

Differences Between Intensive and Reflexive Pronouns

While intensive pronouns and reflexive pronouns share the same forms, their functions and placements within sentences differ significantly. Understanding these differences is critical for accurate usage.

Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and the object of a sentence refer to the same entity. They are necessary to complete the meaning of the verb, indicating that the action reflects back on the subject. For example, “She taught herself to play piano” shows that “herself” is the object receiving the action of the verb “taught.”

Intensive Pronouns

In contrast, intensive pronouns merely add emphasis and are not essential to the grammatical completeness of a sentence. They usually follow the noun or pronoun they intensify and can be removed without altering the fundamental meaning. For instance, “The CEO himself approved the

plan” emphasizes “The CEO” but would still be grammatically correct without “himself.”

Summary of Differences

- **Function:** Reflexive pronouns reflect the action back to the subject; intensive pronouns emphasize the subject.
- **Necessity:** Reflexive pronouns are essential for sentence meaning; intensive pronouns are optional for emphasis.
- **Placement:** Reflexive pronouns act as objects; intensive pronouns follow the noun or pronoun they intensify.

Usage Rules and Placement in Sentences

Proper placement and usage of intensive pronouns are vital for clear and effective communication. These pronouns usually appear immediately after the noun or pronoun they emphasize or at the end of a sentence for rhetorical effect.

Positioning of Intensive Pronouns

Intensive pronouns typically follow the subject they intensify. For example, “The manager herself conducted the interview” places “herself” directly after “the manager” to stress her personal involvement.

Optionality in Sentences

The use of an intensive pronoun is optional and can be omitted without affecting the grammatical structure. The sentence “He fixed the car” remains correct without “himself,” though adding “himself” emphasizes that he personally did the repair.

Agreement in Person and Number

Intensive pronouns must agree with the noun or pronoun they modify in person, number, and gender. For example, “They themselves completed the project” correctly uses the plural intensive pronoun “themselves” to match “they.”

Examples of Intensive Pronouns in Sentences

Practical examples illustrate how intensive pronouns function within sentences to add emphasis and clarity. These examples demonstrate varied contexts and grammatical constructions.

Singular Subject Examples

- “I completed the assignment myself.”

- “She herself delivered the presentation.”
- “The cat itself knocked over the vase.”

Plural Subject Examples

- “We ourselves built the entire structure.”
- “The students themselves organized the event.”
- “They themselves decided on the schedule.”

Emphasis in Formal and Informal Contexts

Intensive pronouns are used both in formal writing and informal speech to emphasize actions or subjects. For example, in formal documents: “The director herself approved the budget,” and in casual conversation: “You yourself said it was a good idea.”

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Incorrect usage of intensive pronouns can lead to grammatical errors or awkward sentences. Recognizing common mistakes helps ensure proper application of these pronouns.

Misusing Reflexive Pronouns as Intensive Pronouns

Confusing reflexive and intensive pronouns often results in sentences where the pronoun is incorrectly used as the object. For example, “She told to herself” is incorrect; the correct reflexive form is “She told herself,” while “She herself told the story” is the intensive form.

Incorrect Placement

Placing an intensive pronoun too far from the noun it emphasizes can cause confusion. The intensive pronoun should be close to the subject it modifies to maintain clarity.

Overuse of Intensive Pronouns

Excessive use of intensive pronouns can make writing seem redundant or overly dramatic. It is important to use them judiciously to maintain natural flow and avoid unnecessary emphasis.

Checklist for Proper Use

- Ensure the intensive pronoun matches the subject in person and number.
- Place the intensive pronoun immediately after the noun or pronoun it emphasizes.

- Use the intensive pronoun only to add emphasis, not as a necessary object.
- Avoid redundant or excessive use of intensive pronouns.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an example of an intensive pronoun?

An example of an intensive pronoun is 'myself' in the sentence 'I made the cake myself.'

How is the intensive pronoun 'yourself' used in a sentence?

The intensive pronoun 'yourself' is used to emphasize the subject, as in 'You yourself completed the project.'

Can you give an example of an intensive pronoun with the subject 'he'?

Yes, an example is 'He himself fixed the car.'

What is the difference between intensive and reflexive pronouns?

Intensive pronouns emphasize the subject and can be removed without changing the sentence's meaning, while reflexive pronouns are necessary when the subject and object are the same. For example, 'She herself made the decision' (intensive) vs. 'She made herself a sandwich' (reflexive).

Are 'ourselves' and 'themselves' examples of intensive pronouns?

Yes, 'ourselves' and 'themselves' can function as intensive pronouns to emphasize the subject, such as in 'We ourselves completed the task' or 'They themselves arrived early.'

How do you identify an intensive pronoun in a sentence?

An intensive pronoun usually follows the noun or pronoun it emphasizes and can be removed without changing the sentence's basic meaning. For example, in 'The CEO herself announced the news,' 'herself' is intensive.

Can intensive pronouns be used at the beginning of a sentence?

Yes, intensive pronouns can be used at the beginning for emphasis, such as 'I myself don't agree with that opinion.'

Give an example of an intensive pronoun used with the pronoun 'it'.

An example is 'It itself is enough to solve the problem.'

Why are intensive pronouns important in English grammar?

Intensive pronouns add emphasis to a sentence, highlighting the subject's role or action, which can make communication clearer or more expressive.

Additional Resources

1. *Mastering English Grammar: Intensive Pronouns Explained*

This book offers a comprehensive guide to English grammar with a special focus on intensive pronouns. It breaks down the usage, rules, and common mistakes associated with words like "myself," "yourself," and "themselves." Perfect for learners at all levels, it includes examples and exercises to reinforce understanding.

2. *Intensive Pronouns in Everyday Communication*

Explore how intensive pronouns are used in daily conversations and writing in this practical book. It provides relatable examples and tips to help readers effectively emphasize subjects in their sentences. The book also highlights the difference between intensive and reflexive pronouns.

3. *English Grammar Essentials: Intensive Pronouns*

Designed for students and educators alike, this book focuses on the essentials of intensive pronouns within the broader context of English grammar. It explains their function, placement, and significance with clear examples and engaging practice activities.

4. *Pronouns and Their Power: Understanding Intensive Pronouns*

This insightful book delves into the power of pronouns, emphasizing the role of intensive pronouns in adding emphasis. Readers will find detailed explanations and illustrative sentences that clarify when and how to use these pronouns effectively.

5. *Learning English Pronouns: Intensive Pronouns Made Simple*

A user-friendly book that simplifies the concept of intensive pronouns for English learners. It features straightforward explanations, colorful illustrations, and plenty of examples to make learning enjoyable and effective.

6. *The Role of Intensive Pronouns in Sentence Structure*

This book analyzes how intensive pronouns contribute to sentence clarity and emphasis. It provides syntactic insights and examples showing their placement and function, useful for advanced learners and linguistics enthusiasts.

7. *English Usage Handbook: Intensive Pronouns and Beyond*

A thorough handbook that covers various pronouns with a dedicated section on intensive pronouns. It includes rules, exceptions, and stylistic advice to help writers use intensive pronouns correctly and effectively.

8. *Fun with Grammar: Intensive Pronouns Activities*

Perfect for teachers and students, this book offers interactive activities and games focused on intensive pronouns. It encourages hands-on learning through puzzles, quizzes, and creative writing prompts centered around these pronouns.

9. Intensive Pronouns in Literature and Writing

This book explores the use of intensive pronouns in classic and contemporary literature. It examines how authors use them for stylistic emphasis and character voice, providing readers with a deeper appreciation of this grammatical tool.

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