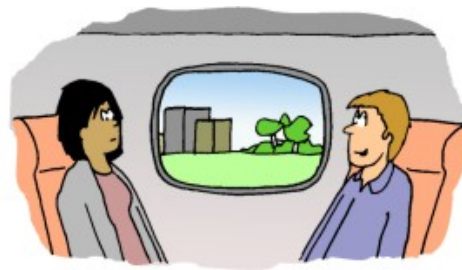


## C6. Telling jokes

### reflexive pronouns



Once there was a man travelling on a train. A woman sitting opposite him noticed that the man was talking to **himself**. Every now and then, after saying something to **himself** under his breath, he laughed. Sometimes, after saying something to **himself**, he groaned. This went on for twenty minutes.

'I wonder what he's doing,' the woman wondered to **herself**.

At last, feeling curious, the woman decided to speak to him.

'Excuse me, but can I ask what you are doing?' she asked.

'I get bored on long journeys so I'm passing the time by telling **myself** jokes,' he replied.

'When it's a good joke, sometimes I make **myself** laugh.'

'I see,' said the woman, 'But why do you groan sometimes?'

'Well,' the man explained, 'That's when it's a joke I already know.'

### Grammar: reflexive pronouns

**Reflexive pronouns** are used to talk about actions where the subject and the object are the same.

**Incorrect:** ~~I hurt me.~~ **Correct:** I hurt myself.

#### Subject pronouns

I  
You  
He  
She  
It  
We  
You (plural)  
They

#### Object pronouns

me  
you  
him  
her  
it  
us  
you  
them

#### Reflexive pronouns

myself  
yourself  
himself  
herself  
itself  
ourselves  
yourselves  
themselves

Sarah was looking at **herself** in the mirror.  
The computer turns **itself** off after twenty minutes.  
We really enjoyed **ourselves** at the party.

#### Complete these sentences with the correct pronoun.

- Helen and Mike! Great to see you. Come in and sit down. Make \_\_\_\_\_ comfortable!
- This is a great pie, Cathy. Did you bake it \_\_\_\_\_?
- I love the way Frank and Martin have painted their apartment. Do you know if they did it \_\_\_\_\_?
- Don't worry about the heating. It switches \_\_\_\_\_ off when it's the right temperature.
- Did your sister enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ on her trip last week?

#### Match the questions to the answers.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 6. Did you hurt yourself?                             | A. Yes, thanks. We really enjoyed ourselves. |
| 7. Did you buy that cake or did you make it yourself? | B. They did it themselves.                   |
| 8. Do you turn off your computer when you finish?     | C. No, I'm fine. But thanks for asking.      |
| 9. Did you have a good time?                          | D. I made it myself.                         |
| 10. Who painted your neighbours' house?               | E. No, I don't. It does it itself.           |

### Vocabulary exercises

#### Choose the correct verb to complete the sentences.

**go get sit tell pass**

- How do you usually \_\_\_\_\_ the time when you are on a long journey?
- I don't often \_\_\_\_\_ jokes, because I often forget the endings.

3. I didn't want to \_\_\_\_\_ opposite anyone on the journey.
4. I don't \_\_\_\_\_ bored on train journeys because I look out of the window.
5. I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ up to the ticket inspector and ask him what time the train gets in.

**Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentences.**

6. I noticed the teacher was talking **below** / **down** / **under** his breath.
7. When I go **on** / **for** / **at** long journeys, I usually take a book with me.
8. We were all laughing **by** / **at** / **with** Mark's jokes.
9. I think you should say something **at** / **to** / **on** him.
10. I'm pleased you're here **in** / **to** / **at** last!

**ANSWERS**