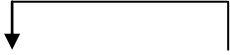


Episode 058 – Grammar

Reflexive verbs in the accusative and dative cases (review)

You're already familiar with reflexive verbs.

Example:


*Ich wasche **mich**.*

Truly reflexive verbs cannot be used without their reflexive pronouns. Nor can the reflexive pronoun be replaced by another pronoun or noun.

Examples:

*Entspannen Sie **sich**!*

*Ich möchte **mich** entspannen.*

For "false" reflexive verbs, the reflexive pronoun is an object. The pronoun can be replaced by another component. The verb "waschen" (to wash), for example, requires an accusative object. But if you are washing yourself and not something or someone else, you use the reflexive pronoun.

with a noun or a personal pronoun

*Ich wasche **den Pullover**.*

*Ich wasche **ihn**.*

with a reflexive pronoun

*Ich wasche **mich**.*

*Er wäscht **sich**.*

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Reflexive verbs with two objects

For "false" reflexive verbs that also have an accusative object, the reflexive pronoun must be in the dative.

Reflexive verbs with one object:

	Accusative object	
<i>Ich wasche</i>	mich.	
<i>Ich ziehe</i>	mich	<i>an.</i>

Reflexive verbs with two objects:

	Dative object	Accusative object	
<i>Ich wasche</i>	mir	das Gesicht.	
<i>Ich ziehe</i>	mir	eine Badehose	<i>an.</i>

Declension

The reflexive pronouns take the same forms as personal pronouns. The only exception is in the 3rd person singular and plural, which has its own form: "sich".

	Accusative		Dative	
<i>Ich wasche</i>	mich.	<i>Ich wasche</i>	mir	<i>die Hände.</i>
<i>Du wäschst</i>	dich.	<i>Du wäschst</i>	dir	<i>die Hände.</i>
<i>Er/Sie/Es wäscht</i>	sich.	<i>Er/Sie/Es wäscht</i>	sich	<i>die Hände.</i>
<i>Wir waschen</i>	uns.	<i>Wir waschen</i>	uns	<i>die Hände.</i>
<i>Ihr wascht</i>	euch.	<i>Ihr wascht</i>	euch	<i>die Hände.</i>
<i>Sie waschen</i>	sich.	<i>Sie waschen</i>	sich	<i>die Hände.</i>

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Mehr:

The reflexive pronouns of some reflexive verbs - both properly and non-exclusively reflexive ones - must always be in the dative. For these verbs, the reflexive pronoun can never be in the accusative.

Examples:

*Ich merke **mir** das Passwort.*

*Ich mache **mir** Sorgen.*

*Ich wünsche **mir**...*

*Ich kann **mir** denken/vorstellen, dass ...*

*Ich gebe **mir** Mühe.*