

REFLEXIVE VERBS IN SPANISH

- 1) In Spanish, there is a set of verbs called ‘reflexive’ verbs. This is not a new tense, like present, past or future. These verbs are actions, in a sense, that one would do ‘to themselves’. For example, “I wash (myself),” “They wake (themselves) up,” or, “I brush (my own) teeth.” They follow all of the ‘normal’ verb rules you have learned about the present tense, but they have an additional step.
- 2) When you look up an action in the dictionary, and it ends in -ARSE, -ERSE, or -IRSE, the ‘se’ indicates that is a ‘reflexive verb.’ Below are examples:

levantarse - to get up (i.e. out of bed)
divertirse (e→ie) - to have fun
ponerse - to put on (like clothes)

- 3) Let’s look at what to do with the ‘se’ at the end. The ‘se’ will come off of the end and change into one of the following (called ‘reflexive pronouns’):

me	(yo)	nos	(nosotros/as)
te	(tú)	os	(vosotros/as)
se	(él/ella/Ud.)	se	(ellos/as, Uds.)

- 4) You will use the same present tense endings that you have learned this year for -AR, -ER, and -IR verbs. **In addition**, though, you will take the ‘se’ off of the end and **move it out front** when you conjugate/use the verb (a.k.a. “change the ending”). Let’s look at ‘levantarse’ in its forms:

levantarse - to get up

yo	<u>me</u> levanto	- I wake (myself) up	nosotros	<u>nos</u> levantamos	- we wake (ourselves) up
tú	<u>te</u> levantas	- you wake (yourself) up	vosotros	<u>os</u> levantáis	- you wake (yourselves) up
él/ella/Ud.	se levanta	- he/she wakes (him/herself) up	ellos/Uds.	<u>se</u> levantan	- they wake (themselves) up
		you wake (yourself) up			you all wake (yourselves) up

- 5) Some verbs can be spelling change verbs (“boot verbs”) and reflexive verbs at the same time! Will the fun never end?! However, they will still use the same verb endings that you have used:

divertirse (e→ie) - to have fun

yo	<u>me</u> divierto	- I have fun	nosotros	<u>nos</u> divertimos	- we have fun
tú	<u>te</u> diviertes	- you have fun	vosotros	<u>os</u> divertís	- you have fun
él/ella/Ud.	se divierte	- he/she has fun	ellos/Uds.	<u>se</u> divierten	- they have fun
		you have fun			you all have fun

6) Here is a list of other common reflexive verbs in Spanish:

levantarse - to get up

despertarse (e→ie) - to wake up

cepillarse los dientes - to brush your teeth

vestirse (e→i) - to get dressed / to dress

peinarse - to comb your hair

afeitarse - to shave

acostarse (o→ue) - to go to bed

ducharse - to take a shower / to shower

lavarse - to wash (yourself)

bañarse - to bathe

dormirse - to go to sleep / fall asleep

irse - to go away/leave

maquillarse - to put on makeup

sentarse (e→ie) - to sit down

ponerse* - to put on (clothes)

quitarse - to take off

sentirse (e→ie) - to feel (an emotion)

* - the 'yo' form of 'poner' is 'pongo'. The remaining forms follow 'normal' rules.

7) Using the words from above, try writing some of your own ideas below: