

Lezion 6A1 - Reflexive Verbs

A reflexive verb “reflects” the action of the verb back onto the subject. The infinitive form of reflexives ends with the reflexive pronoun **-si**, as in the verb **svegliarsi**. As with object pronouns, the final **-e** of the infinitive is dropped before adding the pronoun.

Subject		Reflexive verb
Fabrizio	<-----	si sveglia alle sette.
Fabrizio		wakes (himself) up at 7:00.

Reflexive verbs are made up of two parts: the verb and the reflexive pronoun. Both must agree with the subject.

alzarsi (to get up)		
io	mi alzo	I get (myself) up
tu	ti alzi	you get (yourself) up
Lei/lui/lei	si alza	you get (yourself) up; he/she/it gets (himself/herself/itself) up
noi	ci alziamo	we get (ourselves) up
voi	vi alzate	you get (yourselves) up
loro	si alzano	they get (themselves) up

Note that reflexive pronouns are the same as direct and indirect object pronouns in all but the third person (**si**) forms.

-Tu **ti svegli** alle nove, ma io **mi sveglio** alle undici.

-Stefania **si trucca** mentre i bambini **si lavano**.

Like other object pronouns, reflexive pronouns precede conjugated verb forms or are attached to the infinitive. Pronouns are commonly attached to the infinitive in a two-verb construction, although they can also precede the conjugated verb, particularly in constructions with **dovere**, **potere**, and **volere**.

-L'attrice preferisce truccarsi **si** qui.

-**Vi** dovete alzare prima delle otto.

While some Italian reflexive verbs are equivalent to an English construction with *myself*, *yourself*, etc., many others are not.

-**Ci prepariamo** per uscire.

BUT

-Non **mi annoio** mai a lezione.

Common reflexive verbs

addormentarsi	<i>to fall asleep</i>	pettinarsi	<i>to comb/brush one's hair</i>
alzarsi	<i>to stand/get up</i>	preoccuparsi (di)	<i>to worry (about)</i>
annoiarsi	<i>to get/be bored</i>	prepararsi	<i>to get ready</i>
arrabbiarsi	<i>to get angry</i>	radarsi	<i>to shave</i>
chiamarsi	<i>to be called</i>	rendersi conto (di)	<i>to realize</i>
divertirsi	<i>to have fun</i>	riposarsi	<i>to rest</i>
farsi male	<i>to hurt oneself</i>	sbagliarsi	<i>to make a mistake</i>
fermarsi	<i>to stop (oneself)</i>	sedersi	<i>to sit down</i>
innamorarsi	<i>to fall in love</i>	sentirsi	<i>to feel</i>
lamentarsi (di)	<i>to complain (about)</i>	spogliarsi	<i>to undress</i>
laurearsi	<i>to graduate from college</i>	sposarsi	<i>to get married</i>
mettersi	<i>to put on</i>	svegliarsi	<i>to wake up</i>
		truccarsi	<i>to put on makeup</i>
		vestirsi	<i>to get dressed</i>

Sedersi is irregular in all forms except **noi** and **voi**. The stem of the irregular forms is **-sied-**.
 -**Non si siedono** sulla panchina. -Dove **vi siedete** a tavola?

Note that some verbs can be used reflexively or non-reflexively. Compare their use here:

-**Mi sveglio** alle sei.

Sveglio mia sorella alle sei e mezzo.

-Perché **ti metti** quella maglia?

Perché **metti** la maglietta al cane?

When a body part or an article of clothing is the object of a reflexive verb, use the definite article (il, lo, la, l') with it, not the possessive adjective (il mio, la mia, etc.).

-Mi lavo **la faccia** e **le mani**. Non ti metti **gli stivali**.

Provalo Aggiungi le forme mancanti dei verbi riflessivi indicati.

	pettinarsi	radarsi	vestirsi
1. io	_____	mi rado	_____
2. tu	ti pettini	_____	ti vesti
3. Lei/lui/lei	si pettina	_____	_____
4. noi	_____	ci radiamo	
5. voi	vi pettinate	_____	vi vestite
6. loro	_____	si radano	_____