Intensive Pronouns

Name: _____	Date: _____	Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

Intensive pronouns (myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves) add EMPHASIS to a noun or pronoun already in the sentence. Test: if you can REMOVE the -self word and the sentence still makes sense, it is intensive. A REFLEXIVE pronoun looks identical but is the OBJECT of the verb — the action returns to the subject ('She hurt herself'). Never use -self words as subjects ('Myself went' — wrong) or as plain objects ('Send it to myself' — wrong; use 'me').

PRACTICE

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. Which sentence uses an INTENSIVE pronoun correctly?

- **A.** Marcus hurt himself during the soccer game on Saturday.
- **B.** The mayor herself handed out the awards at the ceremony.
- **C.** Please send the permission slip to myself by Friday.
- **D.** Myself and Aisha will lead the recycling club this year.

2. Which sentence uses a REFLEXIVE pronoun (not intensive)?

- **A.** The president himself answered the student's question.
- **B.** I taught myself how to solve a Rubik's cube last summer.
- **C.** The cake itself was beautiful, but the frosting was too sweet.
- **D.** Myself and my brother built the treehouse over the weekend.

3. Which sentence uses '-self/-selves' INCORRECTLY?

- **A.** Please give your responses to Mrs. Chen or myself by noon.
- **B.** Jordan finished the puzzle by himself in under an hour.
- **C.** The students themselves designed the mural in the hallway.
- **D.** She blamed herself for forgetting the team's water cooler.

4. Which sentence uses the correct -self word?

- **A.** The twins hurt theirselves while skateboarding yesterday.
- **B.** The twins hurt themself while skateboarding yesterday.
- **C.** The twins hurt himself while skateboarding yesterday.
- **D.** The twins hurt themselves while skateboarding yesterday.

5. In which sentence is the intensive pronoun used to add EMPHASIS?

A. Diego cut himself on the broken glass.

B. The author herself signed every book at the event.

C. We promised ourselves we would finish the project tonight.

D. Carmen reminded herself to take the cookies out of the oven.

6. Which revision fixes the underlined error? 'Coach Patel asked Lina and __myself__ to set up the cones.'

A. Coach Patel asked Lina and I to set up the cones.

B. Coach Patel asked Lina and ourselves to set up the cones.

C. Coach Patel asked Lina and me to set up the cones.

D. Coach Patel asked Lina and herself to set up the cones.

7. Which sentence shows correct use of an intensive pronoun for emphasis?

A. The principal himself delivered the announcement over the intercom.

B. The principal his self delivered the announcement over the intercom.

C. The principal hisself delivered the announcement over the intercom.

D. The principal him self delivered the announcement over the intercom.

8. Which sentence uses the intensive pronoun correctly?

A. Yourself should sign up for the chess club before Friday.

B. You signed yourself up for the chess club before Friday.

C. Sign yourself for the club, you yourself before Friday.

D. You yourself should sign up for the chess club before Friday.

9. Which sentence is correct?

A. The cat opened the cabinet door it's self looking for treats.

B. The cat opened the cabinet door itself looking for treats.

C. The cat opened the cabinet door its self looking for treats.

D. The cat opened the cabinet door themselves looking for treats.

10. Rewrite this sentence so the -self word is used correctly. If the -self word is unnecessary, remove it: 'Please send the registration form to my coach or myself by tomorrow morning.'

_____

_____

Answer Keys

1	A	**B**	C	D	6	A	B	**C**	D
2	A	B	**C**	D	7	**A**	B	C	D
3	**A**	B	C	D	8	A	B	C	**D**
4	A	B	C	**D**	9	A	**B**	C	D
5	A	**B**	C	D	10	See below			

Explanations

1. B	An intensive pronoun emphasizes a noun and can be REMOVED with no loss of meaning: 'The mayor handed out the awards' still works. A is reflexive (Marcus is both subject and object of 'hurt'). C wrongly uses 'myself' as a plain object — should be 'to me'. D wrongly uses 'myself' as a subject — should be 'Aisha and I'.
2. C	A reflexive pronoun is the OBJECT of the verb and CANNOT be removed without breaking the sentence. In B, 'I taught myself' — 'myself' is the object of 'taught' (I taught me). Remove it and the sentence breaks: 'I taught how to solve…'. A and C are intensive (removable: 'The president answered' / 'The cake was beautiful'). D misuses 'myself' as a subject.
3. A	A misuses 'myself' as the object of the preposition 'to' — the speaker is not also the subject, so the reflexive does not belong. Correct form: 'to Mrs. Chen or me'. B uses 'by himself' (reflexive, idiomatic). C uses 'themselves' as an intensive (removable). D uses 'herself' as a true reflexive (she blamed her).
4. D	The standard plural form is 'themselves'. A uses 'theirselves', a non-standard form often heard in speech. B uses 'themself' (singular form for one person, doesn't match plural 'twins'). C uses singular 'himself' for two people.
5. B	B is intensive: 'herself' emphasizes that THE AUTHOR (not a stand-in) signed the books, and the sentence works without it — 'The author signed every book'. A, C, and D are all reflexives: removing the -self word breaks the meaning (Diego cut what? We promised what? Carmen reminded who?).
6. C	'Myself' cannot be a plain object — the subject (Coach Patel) is a different person, so no reflexive is needed. The object of 'asked' takes objective case: 'me'. A uses subjective 'I' as an object. B uses plural 'ourselves' for one speaker. D uses 'herself' for the speaker, which doesn't match person.
7. A	The standard form is one word, 'himself'. A is correct. B splits it into 'his self' (non-standard). C uses 'hisself' (non-standard form heard in informal speech). D writes 'him self' as two words (also non-standard).
8. D	Intensive pronouns come right AFTER the noun or pronoun they emphasize: 'You yourself' emphasizes 'you', and removing 'yourself' still leaves a complete sentence. A uses 'yourself' as a subject (wrong). B uses 'yourself' as a reflexive object (grammatical but not intensive). C jams the intensive in an awkward spot and breaks the sentence.
9. B	'Itself' is one word and is the standard intensive form for a singular non-human subject — it emphasizes that the cat (not someone else) opened the door. A confuses 'it's' (= it is) with the possessive. C splits 'its self' into two words (non-standard). D uses plural 'themselves' for one cat.

10.	**Answer:** Please send the registration form to my coach or me by tomorrow morning. 'Myself' is wrong as a plain object — the speaker is not also the subject of 'send', so no reflexive belongs here. Replace 'myself' with the objective pronoun 'me'. Accept any revision that uses 'me' as the object of 'to'. Mark wrong if the student keeps 'myself', changes it to subjective 'I' ('to my coach or I'), or rewrites the sentence in a way that loses the original meaning.

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