

# 20. Demonstrative and Reflexive Pronouns

## Lesson in a Nutshell

**Near demonstrative pronouns** (“this” and “these”) look a lot like third person pronouns except they start with a rough breathing or a τ. **Far demonstrative pronouns** (“that” and “those”) begin with ἔκειν.

First person **reflexive pronouns** all begin with ἐμαυτ.

Second person **reflexive pronouns** all begin with σεαυτ.

Third person **reflexive pronouns** all begin with ἑαυτ.

## Near and Far Demonstrative Pronouns

Here are examples of the near demonstrative pronouns in an English sentence:

*This is becoming very easy!*

*Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me.*

And here are examples of the far demonstrative pronouns:

*Are you finished with that?*

*Those are my favorite jelly beans!*

Notice that in English, the pronoun does not change except to show whether it is singular or plural. The English chart would look like this:

Near Demonstrative Pronoun		Far Demonstrative Pronoun							
	M (2)	F (1)	N (2)						
Singular	Nom	<b>This</b>		M (2)	F (1)	N (2)	Nom	<b>That</b>	
	Gen						Gen		
	Dat						Dat		
	Acc						Acc		
Plural	Nom	<b>These</b>		M (2)	F (1)	N (2)	Nom	<b>Those</b>	
	Gen						Gen		
	Dat						Dat		
	Acc						Acc		

The Greek chart looks like this:

Near Demonstrative Pronoun				Far Demonstrative Pronoun					
		M (2)	F (1)	N (2)			M (2)	F (1)	N (2)
Singular	Nom	οὗτος this	αὕτη this	τούτο this	Singular	Nom	ἐκεῖνος that	ἐκείνη that	ἐκεῖνο that
	Gen	τούτου of this	ταύτης of this	τούτου of this		Gen	ἐκείνου of that	ἐκείνης of that	ἐκείνου of that
	Dat	τούτῳ to this	ταύτῃ to this	τούτῳ to this		Dat	ἐκείνῳ to that	ἐκείνῃ to that	ἐκείνῳ to that
	Acc	τούτον this	ταύτην this	τούτο this		Acc	ἐκεῖνον that	ἐκείνην that	ἐκεῖνο that
Plural	Nom	οὗτοι these	αὗται these	ταῦτα these	Plural	Nom	ἐκεῖνοι those	ἐκείναι those	ἐκεῖνα those
	Gen	τούτων of these	τούτων of these	τούτων of these		Gen	ἐκείνων of those	ἐκείνων of those	ἐκείνων of those
	Dat	τούτοις to these	ταύταις to these	τούτοις to these		Dat	ἐκείνοις to those	ἐκείναις to those	ἐκείνοις to those
	Acc	τούτους these	ταύτας these	ταῦτα these		Acc	ἐκείνους those	ἐκείνας those	ἐκεῖνα those

Why is the Greek chart so complicated? Because it gives us the case, number, and gender every time it uses the pronoun.

This is not really complicated. It is just following the 2-1-2 pattern we have grown used to. The way to learn the pronouns is not to memorize every one of them, but to notice the patterns.

The near demonstrative pronouns have either a **rough breathing** or begin with a **τ**. Otherwise, they look very much like the third person pronoun.

The far demonstrative pronouns are especially easy to recognize. They always begin with **ἐκεῖν**.

### Reflexive Pronouns

The reflexive pronouns reflect the action of the verb back onto the subject. For example:

- First Person: I plan to read to myself tonight.
- Second Person: Give yourself a break!
- Third Person: She is very strict with herself.

Here are all of the English forms:

	Singular	Plural
First Person	<b>myself</b>	<b>ourselves</b>
Second Person	<b>yourself</b>	<b>yourselves</b>
Third Person	<b>himself</b> <b>herself</b> <b>itself</b>	<b>themselves</b>

Since Greek gives us the case, number and gender of every substantive, we will expect more forms, but these forms will follow the nice, easy 2-1-2 pattern we already know.

Once you get the hang of a few patterns, Greek is not as hard as it first appears!

### Greek Reflexive Pronouns

First Person Reflexive Pronoun			Third Person Reflexive Pronoun				
		M (2)	F (1)		N (2)		
Singular	Nom						
	Gen	ἐμαυτοῦ of myself	ἐμαυτῆς of herself	ἐαυτοῦ of himself	ἐαυτῆς of herself	ἐαυτοῦ of itself	
	Dat	ἐμαυτῷ to myself	ἐμαυτῇ to myself	ἐαυτῷ to himself	ἐαυτῇ to herself	ἐαυτῷ to itself	
	Acc	ἐμαυτόν myself	ἐμαυτήν myself	ἐαυτόν himself	ἐαυτήν herself	ἐαυτό itself	
Second Person Reflexive Pronoun							
		M (2)	F (1)				
Singular	Nom						
	Gen	σεαυτοῦ of yourself	σεαυτῆς of yourself				
	Dat	σεαυτῷ to yourself	σεαυτῇ to yourself				
	Acc	σεαυτόν yourself	σεαυτήν yourself				
Plural	Nom						
	Gen	ἐαυτῶν of themselves	ἐαυτῶν of themselves	ἐαυτῶν of themselves	ἐαυτῶν of themselves	ἐαυτῶν of themselves	
	Dat	ἐαυτοῖς to themselves	ἐαυταῖς to themselves	ἐαυτοῖς to themselves	ἐαυταῖς to themselves	ἐαυτοῖς to themselves	
	Acc	ἐαυτούς themselves	ἐαυτάς themselves	ἐαυτούς themselves	ἐαυτάς themselves	ἐαυτα themselves	

I did not include the plural forms of the first and second person reflexive pronouns because I ran out of space. But they follow the 2-1-2 pattern. Easy as pie!

You might notice that there are no nominative forms. Why?

Because the reflexive pronoun by definition *receives* the action of the verb. There is no need for a nominative form. For example:

I hit myself.  
Myself does not hit myself.

There is really nothing new to learn here except three words.

Notice the patterns.

First person reflexive pronouns all begin with **ἐμαυτ.**

Second person reflexive pronouns all begin with **σεαυτ.**

Third person reflexive pronouns all begin with **ἐαυτ.**

## Lexical Forms of Pronouns

Pronouns, like the article and adjectives, have forms in all three genders. Therefore, they are listed in their masculine, feminine and neuter forms in the lexicon.

Remember that we are only discussing eleven words. They change form in very regular ways. Once you learn a few patterns you are well on your way to learning Greek!

	Lexical Form	Pattern	Translation
First Person	ἐγώ	no gender	I
Second Person	σύ	no gender	
Third Person	αὐτός, ἡ, ό	2-1-2	
Relative	ὅς, ἣ, ό	2-1-2	Who
Interrogative	τίς, τί	3-3	Who? What? Which?
Indefinite	τις, τι	3-3	someone, something
Near Demonstrative	οὗτος, αὕτη, τοῦτο	2-1-2	this, these
Far Demonstrative	ἐκεῖνος, η, ο	2-1-2	that, those
First Person Reflexive	ἐμαυτοῦ, ἡς, οῦ	2-1-2	of myself
Second Person Reflexive	σεαυτοῦ, ἡς, οῦ	2-1-2	of yourself
Third Person Reflexive	ἐαυτοῦ, ἡς, οῦ	2-1-2	of himself / herself / itself