

Editorial Graphics and Publishing Services
Best Practices in Using Pronouns Ending in “self”

Words that end in “self” or “selves” are called reflexive pronouns. These words should be used only when they are previously referenced in your document.

The superintendent appointed myself to the committee. (Incorrect. There is no previous reference to identify who “myself” is.)

The superintendent appointed me to the committee. (Correct.)

Mary pushed herself to finish the test. (Correct. “Herself” refers to Mary.)

The team members prepared themselves to compete by practicing every day. (Correct. “Themselves” refers to the team members.)