

**Lesson 15****COMPLIMENTING A MEAL**

*Lori and Jane compliment Lisa on the delicious dinner she prepared. At the end of the evening, Mike and Lori thank her.*

*Jane:* Lisa, this shrimp dish is **out of this world!**

*Lori:* Yes, it's delicious. You really **outdid yourself!**

*Jane:* You can always **count on** Lisa to serve a great meal.

*Lisa:* **Help yourselves** to more.

*Kyle:* I don't want to **make a pig of myself.**

*Lisa:* It's going to **go to waste** if nobody eats it.

*Kyle:* I'd hate to see it go to waste! I'll take a **second helping.**

*Jane:* Kyle, **save some room for dessert!**

*Kyle:* (*patting large stomach*): Don't worry, there's still plenty of room in here!

*(two hours later)*

*Mike:* We'd better **hit the road. Thank you for a lovely time.**

*Lori:* Dinner was delicious. You and Todd really **knocked yourselves out.** **It was a real treat.**

*Lisa:* It was our pleasure.

*Lori:* We look forward to **having you over** soon.

## IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

**(to) count on** – to rely on; to depend on

- Our flight leaves at 6 a.m. tomorrow, and I'm **counting on** you to wake me up!

**(to) go to waste** – to be thrown out; to be wasted

- After the Thanksgiving dinner, we sent our guests home with some leftover turkey so it wouldn't **go to waste**.

**(to) have someone over** – to invite someone to one's house

- Sandra promised to **have us over** for dinner later this month.

**(to) help oneself** – to take; to serve oneself

- **Help yourself** to another piece of cake.

**(to) hit the road** – to leave; to get going

- We promised our babysitter we'd be home by midnight, so we'd better **hit the road** now.

**It was a real treat** – we had a very nice time

- Thanks for having us over for dinner. **It was a real treat**.

**(to) knock oneself out** – to make a big effort; to do more than necessary

- Teresa made handmade gifts for all 20 people at her office. She really **knocked herself out**.

**(to) make a pig of oneself** – to overeat; to eat too much

- May I have another piece of pie? I don't mean to **make a pig of myself**, but it's delicious!

**out of this world** – delicious

- If you go to Café Felix, be sure to order the apple pie for dessert. It's **out of this world**!

**(to) outdo oneself** – to do more than expected; to do a great job

- Danny **outdid himself** with his high school science project. He built a powerful robot.

**(to) save (some) room for dessert** – to not eat too much of the main course so as to be able to eat dessert

- The waitress gave us dessert menus and said, “I hope you **saved room for dessert!**”

**second helping** – a second portion; seconds

- There’s still some lasagna left. Who’d like a **second helping?**

**thank you for a lovely time** – thanks for having us to your house (an expression used by guests to thank their hosts as they leave)

- **“Thank you for a lovely time.”** — “Thank you for coming. It was great seeing you.”

### **Practice the Expressions**

**Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:**

1) This lamb dish is **out of this world**.

- a) pretty good
- b) not bad
- c) delicious

2) Would anybody like **a second helping?**

- a) more food
- b) some help
- c) some dessert

3) It’s already 11 o’clock? We should **hit the road**.

- a) make some plans
- b) go to sleep
- c) leave

- 4) Spending the weekend at Tina's summer home was a **real treat**.
- a) boring
  - b) tiring
  - c) enjoyable
- 5) The bride's mother did all the cooking for the wedding. She really **outdid herself**.
- a) exhausted herself
  - b) did a great job
  - c) did better than she usually does
- 6) Thanks for inviting us over for dinner next Saturday. Please don't **knock yourselves out**.
- a) do a lot of work
  - b) serve us anything good
  - c) serve us more than we can eat
- 7) We'd like to **have you over** soon.
- a) come to your house
  - b) invite you to our house
  - c) go out with you
- 8) If that last piece of fish is going to **go to waste**, I'll take it.
- a) get eaten by somebody else
  - b) get thrown back into the sea
  - c) get thrown in the garbage
- 9) **Save room for dessert**. I made apple pie.
- a) Don't eat so much that you're too full to have dessert.
  - b) Make space available on your plate.
  - c) Don't eat too much dessert.
- 10) Please **help yourselves to** more cookies.
- a) save
  - b) take
  - c) make



## Language Lens: Reflexive Pronouns

Use a reflexive pronoun when the subject and the object of the sentence or clause are the same. In other words, the subject of the sentence or clause does something *to itself* or *for itself*.

### These are the reflexive pronouns:

#### Singular:

me – myself  
you – yourself  
he – himself  
she – herself  
it – itself  
one – oneself

#### Plural:

we – ourselves  
you – yourselves  
they – themselves

Compare when to use a reflexive pronoun with when to use a regular pronoun:

⇒ **Reflexive pronoun:** the subject and object are the same person

Lisa bought Lisa a present. → Lisa bought **herself** a present.  
(subject) (object)

⇒ **Regular pronoun:** the subject and object are different people

Lisa bought Larry a present. → Lisa bought **him** a present.  
(subject) (object)

## **Expressions with -self / -selves**

### **Here are some common expressions with reflexive pronouns:**

- behave oneself: I hope the baby will behave herself at the restaurant.
- by oneself – note the two different meanings:
  - 1: alone. Tim has no plans for Easter. He'll be home by himself.
  - 2: without help. Billy can tie his shoes by himself!
- cut oneself: I cut myself while chopping onions.
- enjoy oneself: Enjoy yourselves on your trip to China!
- hurt oneself: Isabella hurt herself at the playground.
- look at oneself: Look at yourself in the mirror.
- tell oneself: Tiffany told herself everything would be okay.
- kill oneself: Joel is killing himself by working 100 hours a week.

### **Reflexive pronouns can also be used for emphasis:**

- Now you want me to go to the training program? Yesterday you yourself said it would be a waste of time!
- Our boss made us work on Christmas day. He himself took the day off.
- These cookies are delicious! Did you make them yourself?
- You don't have time to fix my computer? Then I'll do it myself!

Note: Do not assume that if a verb takes a reflexive form in your native language, it is also reflexive in English.

Warning: The reflexive pronoun "myself" is often used incorrectly. People use it instead of the pronouns "me" or "I." You'll even hear native speakers make this mistake. Here are a couple of examples of what to say and what not to say:

SAY: Please give the book to Paul or me.

NOT: ~~Please give the book to Paul or myself.~~

SAY: Either Evan or I will give the speech.

NOT: ~~Either Evan or myself will give the speech.~~

## Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) Sara and Sam, help \_\_\_\_ to more pie!  
a) yourself                      b) yourselves                      c) myself
- 2) I hope you're not going to be by \_\_\_\_ on your birthday.  
a) yourselves                      b) yourself                      c) myself
- 3) Don't call a plumber to fix the sink. Fix it \_\_\_\_!  
a) himself                      b) yourself                      c) myself
- 4) Ouch! I cut \_\_\_\_ while slicing a tomato.  
a) himself                      b) yourself                      c) myself
- 5) Did your daughter write that wonderful story all by \_\_\_\_?  
a) itself                      b) herself                      c) oneself
- 6) Troy and Melissa taught \_\_\_\_ Spanish.  
a) herself                      b) theirselves                      c) themselves
- 7) Brian ate the entire pie? He needs to learn to control \_\_\_\_!  
a) herself                      b) itself                      c) himself
- 8) I made this Christmas ornament \_\_\_\_.  
a) itself                      b) myself                      c) yourself
- 9) That's strange. The light just turned on by \_\_\_\_.  
a) himself                      b) herself                      c) itself
- 10) You forgot to make dinner reservations? Never mind. I'll do it \_\_\_\_.  
a) myself                      b) yourself                      c) itself