



PRONOMINAL VERBS : PRESENT TENSE

Nineth lesson – Neuvième leçon

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1. DEFINITION

- Pronominal verbs are conjugated with two pronouns for each person.
 - **Je me** lève. I get up.
 - **Tu te** promènes . You are taking a walk.
- They are also called **reflexive verbs** because the action of the verb « reflects back » on the subject. The subject and the object of the phrase are the same.



1. DEFINITION

For example,

- **appeler**

means *to call someone*

- **s'appeler**

literally means *to call oneself (to be called/named)*

- **lever**

means *to raise, to lift*

- **se lever**

- *(to get up) literally to raise oneself i.e. to get up.*



1. DEFINITION

- These verbs are reciprocal when in the plural form.
 - The action is mutual :
 - *Nous nous aimons* *we love each other*
 - (a literal translation would be « we love us »)



2. HOW TO IDENTIFY A PRONOMINALVERB

- You can identify pronominal/reflexive verbs in the dictionary by the presence of **se** or **s'** preceding the infinitive form:
 - *Lever v. - to lift (something)*
 - *Se lever v. - to lift oneself =to get up*



3. USES

- These are commonly (not only) verbs used to talk of **daily routine**

- *Se laver* *to wash oneself*
- *Se lever* *to get up*
- *S'aimer* *to love oneself/one other*
- *Se coucher* *to lie down/to go bed*
- *S'habiller* *to get dressed*
- *Se disputer* *to argue*
- *Se dépêcher* *to hurry*
- *Se promener* *to take a walk*



4. FORMS: OVERVIEW

person	subject pron.	reflexive pron.	
1 st sg.	je	me/m'	myself
2 nd sg.	tu	te/t'	yourself
3 rd sg.	il/elle/on	se/s'	himself/herself/ itself/oneself
1 st pl.	nous	nous	ourselves
2 nd pl.	vous	vous	yourself/ yourselves
3 rd pl.	ils/elles	se/s'	themselves

4.1 CONJUGATING A PRONOMINAL VERB

- The reflexive pronoun comes before the verb, in most cases:

<i>Se réveiller –to wake up</i>	<i>Se lever –to get up</i>
Je me réveille	Je me lève
Tu te réveilles	Tu te lèves
Il/elle/on se réveille	Il/elle/on se lève
Nous nous réveillons	Nous nous levons
Vous vous réveillez	Vous vous levez
Ils/elles se réveillent	Ils/elles se lèvent



5. NEGATIVE SENTENCES & PRONOMINAL VERBS

- To form a **negative** sentence:
- place **ne** before the reflexive pronoun and **pas** (or another adverb of negation, such as **jamais**, **plus**, **encore...**) immediately after the verb.
 - *Tu te lèves à sept heures?*
 - *Non, je ne me lève pas à sept heures mais à huit heures.*
 - *Do you get up at 7 o'clock?*
 - *No, I don't get up at 7 but at 8 o'clock.*




1.4 QUESTIONS & PRONOMINA/REFLEXIVE VERB

○ For **questions**, you can use the standard declarative word order, the **est-ce que** construction, or **inversion**.

- - *Tu te lèves à sept heures?* *Do you get up at 7?*
- - *Est-ce que tu te lèves à sept heures?* *Do you get up at 7?*
- - *Te lèves-tu à sept heures?* *Do you get up at 7?*

○ *Note : with the pronominal verbs, the inversion concerns the subject pronoun not the reflexive one, which remains at its place.*



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

