

A pronominal verb is a verb that is accompanied by a reflexive pronoun. Pronominal verbs fall into three major classes based on their meaning: **reflexive**, **idiomatic**, and **reciprocal**. You have probably already seen the pronominal verb **s'appeler** (Comment **t'appelles-tu?** What is your name?). To conjugate pronominal verbs in the present tense, you need to pay attention to both the pronoun and the verb form. Listen carefully to the conjugation of the following pronominal verb. The verb is conjugated normally (here an **-er** verb) with addition of the reflexive pronouns **me, te, se, nous, vous, se**.

se raser 'to shave oneself'	
je me rase	nous nous rasons
tu te rases	vous vous rasez
il/elle/on se rase	ils/elles se rasent

reflexive verbs

Pronominal verbs often express reflexive actions, that is, the subject performs the action on itself. If the subject performs the action on someone else, the verb is not reflexive. Here is a list of common reflexive verbs:

- s'asseoir**, to sit (down)
- s'appeler**, to be called
- s'arrêter**, to stop
- se brosser**, to brush
- se coucher**, to go to bed
- s'habiller**, to get dressed
- se laver**, to wash
- se lever**, to get up
- se promener**, to take a walk
- se réveiller**, to wake up

Compare the difference in meaning between **se raser** and **raser** in the following sentences. Note that English does not usually indicate reflexive meaning explicitly since it can be inferred from the context. However, if reflexive meaning is intended in French, then it must be explicitly stated by using a reflexive pronoun.

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| <p>Est-ce que Tex se rase? Mais non, Tex, c'est un tatou. Il n'a pas de cheveux.</p> <p>Qu'est-ce qu'il fait, Tex, avec le rasoir? Il rase Joe-Bob pour l'été.</p> | <p>Does Tex shave? Why no, Tex is an armadillo. He has no hair.</p> <p>What's Tex doing with the razor? He's shaving Joe-Bob for the summer.</p> |
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To negate pronominal verbs, place the **ne** before the reflexive pronoun and the **pas** after the verb. When used with an auxiliary verb such as *aimer* (to like), the infinitive of a pronominal verb agrees with its subject. When pronominal verbs are used with parts of the body, they take the definite article (*le, la, les*) rather than the possessive article as in English: **Tex se lave les mains**. (Tex washes his hands.)

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| <p>Joe Bob: Edouard, est-ce que tu te rases?</p> <p>Edouard: Non, je ne me rase pas.</p> <p>Les escargots ne se rasent pas. Pourtant,</p> | <p>Joe Bob: Edouard, do you shave?</p> <p>Edouard: No, I don't shave.</p> <p>Snails don't shave. However we do wash our</p> |
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nous **nous lavons le** visage tous les jours.


faces every day.

Joe-Bob: Ah, tu as de la chance. Je déteste **me raser**.

Joe-Bob: Ah, you're lucky. I hate to shave.


idiomatic verbs

Some pronominal verbs are idiomatic and do not represent reflexive actions per se. **s'amuser** (to have fun) and **se reposer** (to rest) are examples of pronominal verbs with idiomatic meanings. The following list includes common idiomatic pronominal verbs:


-  **s'amuser**, to have fun
- se dépêcher**, to hurry
- s'endormir**, to fall asleep
- s'ennuyer**, to be bored
- s'entendre**, to get along
- se fâcher**, to get angry
- se marier**, to get married
- se passer**, to happen
- se reposer**, to rest
- se sentir**, to feel
- se souvenir de**, to remember
- se taire**, to be silent
- se tromper**, to make a mistake
- se trouver**, to be (situated)

reciprocal verbs

A third category of pronominal verbs expresses a reciprocal action between more than one person, **s'aimer** or **se parler**, for example. The English equivalent often uses the phrase 'each other' to represent this reciprocal action. Here is a list of common reciprocal verbs:

-  **s'aimer**, to love each other
- se détester**, to hate each other
- se disputer**, to argue
- s'embrasser**, to kiss
- se parler** to talk to each other
- se quitter**, to leave each other
- se regarder**, to look at each other
- se retrouver**, to meet each other
- se téléphoner**, to telephone each other

To form the **imperative** of pronominal verbs, drop the subject pronoun and then attach the reflexive pronoun with a hyphen to the right side of the verb. The reflexive pronoun *te* becomes *toi* when used in the imperative. **Dépêche-toi!** Hurry up!, **Souvenons-nous.** Let's remember., **Amusez-vous!** Have fun!.

 Tammy décrit ses rapports avec Tex.

Tammy: Nous **nous entendons** très bien, sauf quand il **se fâche**.

Il me dit, «Assieds-toi et tais-toi, ma petite.»

Tammy describes her relationship with Tex.

Tammy: Usually we get along very well except when he gets angry.

He tells me "Sit down and shut up, little one!"



Mais nous **nous aimons**
même si nous **nous disputons**
un peu.

But we love each other even
if we fight a little bit.

Nous allons **nous marier** un
jour.

We're going to get married
someday.



TAMMY DÉCRIT SES
RAPPORTS AVEC TEX...



exercices

fill in the blanks

Give the correct form of the verb indicated in parentheses.

1. Tex et Tammy ne _____ pas avec leurs amis. (s'ennuyer)
2. Fiona dit à Tex: Tu _____, mais moi, je vais travailler. (s'amuser)
3. Tammy dit à Fiona: tu ne vas pas _____? (se reposer)
4. Tex et Tammy _____ à Zilker Park. (se promener)
5. Tex: Tammy ne _____ jamais avec moi. (se fâcher)
6. Bette _____ toujours pour Tex. (se maquiller)
7. Tex: Je ne _____ pas. Je n'ai pas de cheveux. (se raser)
8. Bette demande à Fiona: Est-ce que tu _____ à minuit? (se coucher)
9. Corey: Mes amis et moi, nous ne _____ jamais les cheveux. (se brosser)
10. Edouard, à quelle heure est-ce que vous _____ le week-end? (se lever)
11. Corey ne _____ jamais avant midi. (se réveiller)
12. Edouard: Je ne _____ pas. Je suis un escargot. (se dépêcher)