

KS4 French - Knowledge Organiser 11 – Reflexive Verbs

Reflexive Verbs are verbs where the action is 'reflected back' on to the person doing it. We need to use a **reflexive pronoun** to show that the action is reflexive.

The verb 'laver' to wash can be both a reflexive and a non-reflexive verb.

Laver – to wash	Se laver – to wash oneself
Je lave – I wash	Je me lave – I wash myself
Tu laves – you wash	Tu te laves – you wash yourself
Il/elle lave – he/she washes	Il/elle se lave – he she washes himself
Nous lavons – we wash	Nous nous lavons – we wash ourselves
Vous lavez – you wash	Vous vous lavez –you wash yourselves
Ils/elle lavent – they wash	Ils/elles se lavent – they wash themselves

I wash the car – **I wash** is the verb (I, is the subject) and **the car** is the object.

I wash myself – **I wash** is the verb (I, is the subject) and **myself** is the object – when the subject and object are **the same** we use the reflexive form.

Daily routine – there are lots of reflexive verbs in daily routine talking about when you wake up, get up, get dressed, have a wash, brush your teeth etc.

Se réveiller – Je me reveille

Se brosser les dents – Je me brosse les dents

Se lever – Je me lève

Se doucher – Je me douche

Se laver – Je me lave

S'habiller – Je m'habille

N.B. – In the past tense all reflexive verbs use être as the helping verb – so you need to switch to using être and you need to agree the endings as well.

Je me suis lavé(e) – agreement only if the 'Je' is a girl/woman

Nous nous sommes réveillé(e)s – agreement – might have an 'e' if the whole group is female – definitely have an s as it's plural.

Examples:

↓ Normalement, je me réveille à six heures, je me lève, je me douche et je me brosse les dents.

← Hier, nous nous sommes réveillé(e)s à six heures, je me suis douché(e) et je me suis habillé(e).

→ Demain je vais me réveiller à huit heures et je vais me laver avant de sortir.