Personal, Reflexive, and Intensive Pronouns

**11a.** A personal pronoun refers to the one speaking (first person), the one spoken to (second person), or the one spoken about (third person).

**EXAMPLES** They asked me to give you this message and to wait for your reply. [They is third person, me is first person, you and your are second person.]

**11b.** A reflexive pronoun refers to the subject and functions as a complement or an object of a preposition.

**11c.** An intensive pronoun emphasizes a noun or another pronoun.

All reflexive and intensive pronouns end in -self or -selves.

**REFLEXIVE** The explorers had promised themselves that one day they would scale Mount McKinley. [Themselves, an indirect object, refers to the subject explorers.]

**INTENSIVE** Mark had prepared the entire dinner himself. [Himself emphasizes the noun Mark.]

**EXERCISE** In each of the following sentences, underline the pronoun or pronouns. Above each pronoun write P for personal, R for reflexive, or I for intensive.

**Example 1.** Mimi gave up looking finally, and she told herself that the missing book would turn up eventually.

1. Hari bought the bicycle himself, with his own money.

2. As soon as the students decided to write and perform a play, they created an outline of the story.

3. After waiting an hour for Jesse to stop talking on the phone, the kids filled the wading pool themselves.

4. Did you leave the cup on the counter?

5. When Mr. and Mrs. Britt sold their house, it was on the market for only a week.

6. I bought the sandwich for you, Al, and the salad for myself.

7. "We should not be too hard on ourselves," the coach told the team. "We worked hard and did the best we could."

8. Gwen, you need to ask yourself some tough questions about the future.

9. The Wahrman's painted their new house themselves.

10. Dr. Connolly himself cooked the main course for us.