Reflexive Pronouns in Hindi — Study Notes

निजवाचक सर्वनाम · Hindi-English grammar reference

Meaning

Reflexive expressions refer back to a subject or emphasize the person doing an action. Hindi often uses the same expression across persons and genders.

Main Forms and Meanings

Hindi	Meaning	Main Use
खुद	self, personally	Everyday self-reference and emphasis
स्वयं	oneself, personally	Formal emphasis
अपने आप	by oneself, automatically	Independent or spontaneous action
अपना / अपनी / अपने	one's own	Reflexive possession

Grammar Rules

- खुद and स्वयं normally remain unchanged across person, gender and number.
- Use खुद को / अपने आप को for an object that refers back to the subject.
- अपने आप can indicate an action completed without help or automatically.
- अपना, अपनी, अपने agree with the possessed noun, not simply the possessor.
- Reflexive object and emphatic subject are different uses: उसने खुद को देखा versus उसने खुद देखा.

Hindi Sentences with English Meanings

Hindi	English
मैंने यह काम खुद किया।	I did this work myself.
आप स्वयं जाँचिए।	Please check it yourself.
बच्चा अपने आप चलने लगा।	The child started walking on their own.
उसने अपनी किताब उठाई।	She picked up her own book.
दरवाज़ा अपने आप खुल गया।	The door opened automatically.

रवि ने अपनी किताब उठाई।	Ravi picked up his own book.

Common Mistakes

Incorrect	Correct
सीमा ने अपना किताब उठाई।	सीमा ने अपनी किताब उठाई।
वे अपना कपड़े लाए।	वे अपने कपड़े लाए।
मैंने मुझे देखा।	मैंने खुद को देखा।

For more practice, use the separate worksheet with its answer key.