

Spanish

Talk about illness and injury [2 / 3]

- Reflexive vs Non Reflexive use of certain verbs in the perfect tense

Señor Malhi



**No accent if the final syllable ends
in consonant other than [n] or [s]**

crúz

[cross]



club

[club]

Final syllable stress

actriz

[actress]

nariz

[nose]

español

[Spanish]

Portugal

[Portugal]



la cabeza	head
la garganta	throat
la pierna	leg
la espalda	back
la mano	hand
la oreja	ear
el cuerpo	body
cortarse	to cut (oneself)
romperse	to break (a part of one's body)
quemarse	to burn (oneself)



Using verbs reflexively

Most verbs can be used reflexively. The reflexive use of an infinitive verb is indicated by the **-se** at the end: e.g. **quemar** (to burn); **quemarse** (to burn oneself).

Use the reflexive pronoun **me** to mean you do an action to yourself:

Hablo

I speak

Me hablo

I speak to myself

Put **me** in front of the verb. This is the same for all tenses:

He hablado

I have spoken

Me he hablado

I have spoken to myself



Using verbs reflexively in the perfect tense

The perfect tense describes what **has been done**. It is formed using the present tense of **haber** followed by the **past participle**. Use perfect tense reflexive verbs to describe what you have done **to yourself**

He roto la ventana.

[I have broken the window.]

Me he roto la pierna.

[I have broken my leg.]

We often leave out '(to) myself' in English. Ask 'Is this something I do *to* or *for myself*?' to check if you need to use the reflexive pronoun '*me*' in Spanish.



Me o no?

Read the following sentences, and the English translations.

Do they need **me** or not?

1. **Me** he quemado la mano. *I have burnt my hand.*

2. **Me** he cortado la oreja. *I have cut my ear.*

3. he roto el coche. *I have broken the car.*

4. he quemado la cena. *I have burnt the dinner.*

5. **Me** he quemado la garganta. *I have burnt my throat.*

6. **Me** he roto la espalda. *I have broken my back..*



En el hospital

1. ¡Doctor! **He roto/me he roto** la pierna.
2. Papá **he cortado/me he cortado** el césped.
3. No me encuentro bien, **he quemado/me he quemado** la espalda y tengo insolación.
4. Mamá, **he roto/me he roto** tu florero. Lo siento
5. **He cortado/me he cortado** la oreja, y ahora me duele mucho.



Translation Practice

Copy the sentences below and translate them into English.

- 1.** Me he quemado la oreja.
- 2.** He cortado la fruta.
- 3.** He roto el ordenador.
- 4.** Me he roto la pierna.
- 5.** He cortado la espalda. Necesito ir a la clínica.



Respuesta

1. I have burnt my ear.
2. I have cut the fruit.
3. I have broken the computer.
4. I have broken my leg.
5. I have cut my back. I need to go to the clinic.



Translation Practice

Copy the sentences below and translate them into Spanish.

- 1.** I have burnt my hand, I need to go to hospital.
- 2.** I have broken the TV. Sorry!
- 3.** I have burnt the meat.
- 4.** I have cut my head.
- 5.** I have broken my leg, I need to go to the clinic.



Respuesta

1. Me he quemado la mano. Necesito ir al hospital.
2. He roto la televisión. ¡Lo siento!
3. He quemado la carne.
4. Me he cortado la cabeza.
5. Me he roto la pierna. Necesito ir a la clínica.



1. The perfect tense describes what you **'have done'**
2. A reflexive verb describes what you **"do to yourself"**
3. "Quemarse" means: **"to burn oneself"**
4. To say: "I have broken my hand", say: **Me he roto la mano.**
5. *'I have cut my ear'* is: **Me ha cortado la oreja.**

