

Reflexive vs. Personal Pronouns: accus.

Action done by subject to **dir.** object

PERSONAL

Sie wäscht **ihn** jeden Tag.



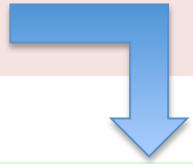
Action done by subject to **self**

REFLEXIVE

Sie wäscht **sich** jeden Tag.



Reflexive vs. Personal pronouns: identical in accus. except for...



REFLEXIVE



3d person singular: Er/sie/es wäscht sich täglich.

&



REFLEXIVE



Sie-form: Waschen Sie sich täglich?



Acting on a part of oneself or part of another

Ich putze **ihr** die Zähne.



Person = indirect obj. dative
Not person = direct obj. accusative

Babsie putzt **sich** die Zähne.



NB Not like English: I am brushing my/his teeth.

Body parts - summing up

When talking about combing or washing your hair, washing your face or brushing your teeth in German, you use the **dative reflexive** forms shown above. German has two reflexive forms, accusative and dative. If you just say, "I'm washing myself." (nothing specific) then you use the "normal" accusative reflexive: "Ich wasche mich." But if you are washing your hair, instead of expressing that as English would ("my hair" = "meine Haare"), German uses the reflexive: "Ich wasche mir die Haare." (*lit.*, "I wash myself the hair." - no possessive "my") Look at the examples below and observe how the **dative reflexive** functions with different pronouns (du/dir, wir/uns, etc.).

Dative Reflexive Sample sentences	
I'm washing my hands.	Ich wasche mir die Hände.
I'm combing my hair.	Ich kämme mir die Haare.
He's washing his hands.	Er wäscht sich die Hände.
Are you washing your hands?	Wäschst du dir die Hände?
We're brushing our teeth.	Wir putzen uns die Zähne.
I'm washing my face.	Ich wasche mir das Gesicht.
German uses the dative reflexive to express the English possessive forms with personal toiletry verbs (comb, wash, brush, etc.). Note that only the forms dir and mir are different from the accusative reflexive forms (dich, mich). Contrast the sentences above with the accusative reflexive forms below:	
I'm washing myself . Are you washing yourself ?	Ich wasche mich. Wäschst du dich?
I'm shaving (myself). He's shaving (himself).	Ich rasiere mich. Er rasiert sich.
I'm getting dressed. He's getting dressed.	Ich ziehe mich an. Er zieht sich an.
Note that with the accusative reflexive the reflexive pronoun is the only object. (The English equivalent may not even be reflexive, i.e., there may be NO "yourself" or "myself" in the English sentence - as in "I'm shaving.") In accusative reflexive sentences the reflexive pronoun itself is the direct object, while in dative reflexive sentences something else is the direct object (hand,	

Something hurts!

Some dative verbs are used to discuss **health** or how people are **feeling**:

weh tun (to hurt)

1. Der Kopf tut *mir* weh.
2. Tut *dir* der Arm weh?



Kopfschmerzen?