

## **Reflexive Verbs in the “Passato Prossimo”**

### VERBI RIFLESSIVI AL PASSATO PROSSIMO

All reflexive verbs are intransitive verbs, meaning they do not take a direct object. The only direct object they may take is a part of one’s body or clothing. Therefore, reflexive verbs take **essere** in **passato prossimo**. As such, the ending of the past participle must agree in gender and number with the subject, as in all verbs that take **essere** in **passato prossimo**.

Di solito <b>mi sveglio</b> presto. <i>(Usually I wake up early)</i>	Stamattina <b>mi sono svegliato/a</b> tardi. <i>(This morning I woke up late.)</i>
Marisa e Rita <b>si divertono</b> molto alla festa. <i>(Marisa e Rita have fun at the party.)</i>	Marisa e Rita <b>si sono divertite</b> molto alla festa. <i>(Marisa e Rita had fun at the party.)</i>

In the *Grammar explanations, charts and examples of Unit 5.1* we listed the most common reflexive verbs. The only verbs in that list that have an irregular past participle are the following.

<b>accorgersi</b> (p.p. <b>accorto</b> ) <i>to notice, to realize</i>	<b>Ci siamo accorti</b> che il prezzo dell'albergo include anche la colazione.  <i>(We realized that the price of the hotel also includes breakfast.)</i>
<b>mettersi</b> (p.p. <b>messo</b> ) <i>to put on, to wear</i>	Perché <b>ti sei messa</b> le scarpe da tennis per andare al colloquio?  <i>(Why did you [f.] wear tennis shoes to go to the interview?)</i>
<b>rendersi conto</b> (p.p. <b>reso</b> ) <i>to be aware</i>	Non <b>si è resa conto</b> che lo stipendio non le bastava.  <i>(She wasn't aware that her salary was not enough.)</i>

## UNIT 5.2 Grammatica

All other past participles are formed by adding the regular endings **-ato, -uto, -ito** to the infinitive after removing **-arsi, -ersi, -irsi** (to review past participle formation go back to *Unit 4.1.*).

Laura <b>si è lamentata</b> durante tutta la camminata.	<i>Laura complained during the whole hike.</i>
<b>Si sono seduti</b> appena sono entrati.	<i>They sat down as soon as they came in.</i>
Quando <b>vi siete trasferiti</b> a Chicago?	<i>When did you (pl.) move to Chicago?</i>

## **Reciprocal Construction** COSTRUZIONE RECIPROCA

The reciprocal construction is used when an action done by one person(s) is reciprocated by the other person(s). For example, “we shake hands”, or “they hugged [each other]” are reciprocal actions and require the reciprocal construction in Italian.

The reciprocal construction is always plural because the reciprocal action always involves two or more people. Therefore the subjects can be only **noi, voi, and loro**.

Verbs in the reciprocal construction are grammatically identical to reflexive verbs, meaning that:

1. they take the reflexive pronouns;
2. they are conjugated with **essere** in the **passato prossimo**.

Reciprocal construction in the present tense:

	<b>abbracciarsi</b> (to hug)	<b>volersi bene</b> (to love each other, to care for each other)	<b>capirsi</b> (to understand each other)
noi	ci abbracciamo	ci vogliamo bene	ci capiamo
voi	vi abbracciate	vi volete bene	vi capite
loro	si abbracciano	si vogliono bene	si capiscono

Reciprocal construction in the **passato prossimo**:

	<b>abbracciarsi</b> (to hug)	<b>volersi bene</b> (to love each other, to care for each other)	<b>capirsi</b> (to understand each other)
noi	ci siamo abbracciati/e	ci siamo voluti/e bene	ci siamo capiti/e
voi	vi siete abbracciati/e	vi siete voluti/e bene	vi siete capiti/e
loro	si sono abbracciati/e	si sono voluti/e bene	si sono capiti/e

UNIT 5.2 *Grammatica*

The most common reciprocal verbs are the following:

<b>abbracciarsi</b>	<i>to hug each other</i>
<b>aiutarsi</b>	<i>to help each other</i>
<b>amarsi</b>	<i>to love each other</i>
<b>baciarsi</b>	<i>to kiss each other</i>
<b>capirsi</b>	<i>to understand each other</i>
<b>conoscersi</b>	<i>to get to know each other</i>
<b>darsi la mano</b>	<i>to shake hands</i>
<b>guardarsi</b>	<i>to look at each other</i>
<b>incontrarsi</b>	<i>to meet</i>
<b>insultarsi</b>	<i>to insult each other</i>
<b>parlarsi</b>	<i>to talk to each other</i>
<b>presentarsi</b>	<i>to introduce each other</i>
<b>salutarsi</b>	<i>to greet each other</i>
<b>sposarsi</b>	<i>to get married</i>
<b>stringersi la mano (p.p. stretto)</b>	<i>to shake hands</i>
<b>telefonarsi</b>	<i>to call/phone each other</i>
<b>vedersi (p.p. visto)</b>	<i>to see each other</i>
<b>volersi bene</b>	<i>to love each other, to care for each other</i>

Now study the reciprocal construction in the context of these sentences:

<b>Vi siete già conosciuti?</b> - Sì, <b>ci siamo presentati</b> un'ora fa.	<i>Have you already met?</i> - Yes, we introduced ourselves to each other an hour ago.
Dove <b>ci vediamo</b> stasera, ragazzi? - Gianni dice che possiamo <b>incontrarci</b> davanti al cinema.	<i>Where are we meeting tonight, guys?</i> - Gianni says that we can meet in front of the cinema.
<b>Si sono resi conto</b> che non <b>si vogliono</b> più <b>bene</b> e pensano di divorziare.	<i>They realized that they no longer love each other and they are thinking about a divorce.</i>
Che ossessione! Giulia e Paolo <b>si vedono</b> tutti i giorni e poi <b>si telefonano</b> tutte le sere!	<i>What an obsession! Giulia and Paolo see each other every day and then they call each other every night!</i>

When used with **dovere**, **potere**, and **volere**, verbs of the reciprocal construction follow the same rule as reflexive verbs, where the pronoun is attached at the end of the infinitive or placed before the conjugated form of **dovere**, **potere**, or **volere**. In all other situations requiring an infinitive, the reflexive pronoun is attached at the end of the infinitive.

*UNIT 5.2 Grammatica*

Study the following examples:

<b><i>Pronoun attached to the infinitive</i></b>	<b><i>Pronoun placed before dovere, potere, volere</i></b>
Non possiamo baciarc <b>ci</b> in pubblico. <i>(We cannot kiss in public.)</i>	Non <b>ci</b> possiamo baciare in pubblico. <i>(We cannot kiss in public.)</i>
È bene conoscers <b>si</b> per un po' di tempo prima di convivere. <i>(It's good to know each other for little time before living together)</i>	