

G E R M A N
COURSE SUPPLEMENT
BASIC STRUCTURES

MODULE 12

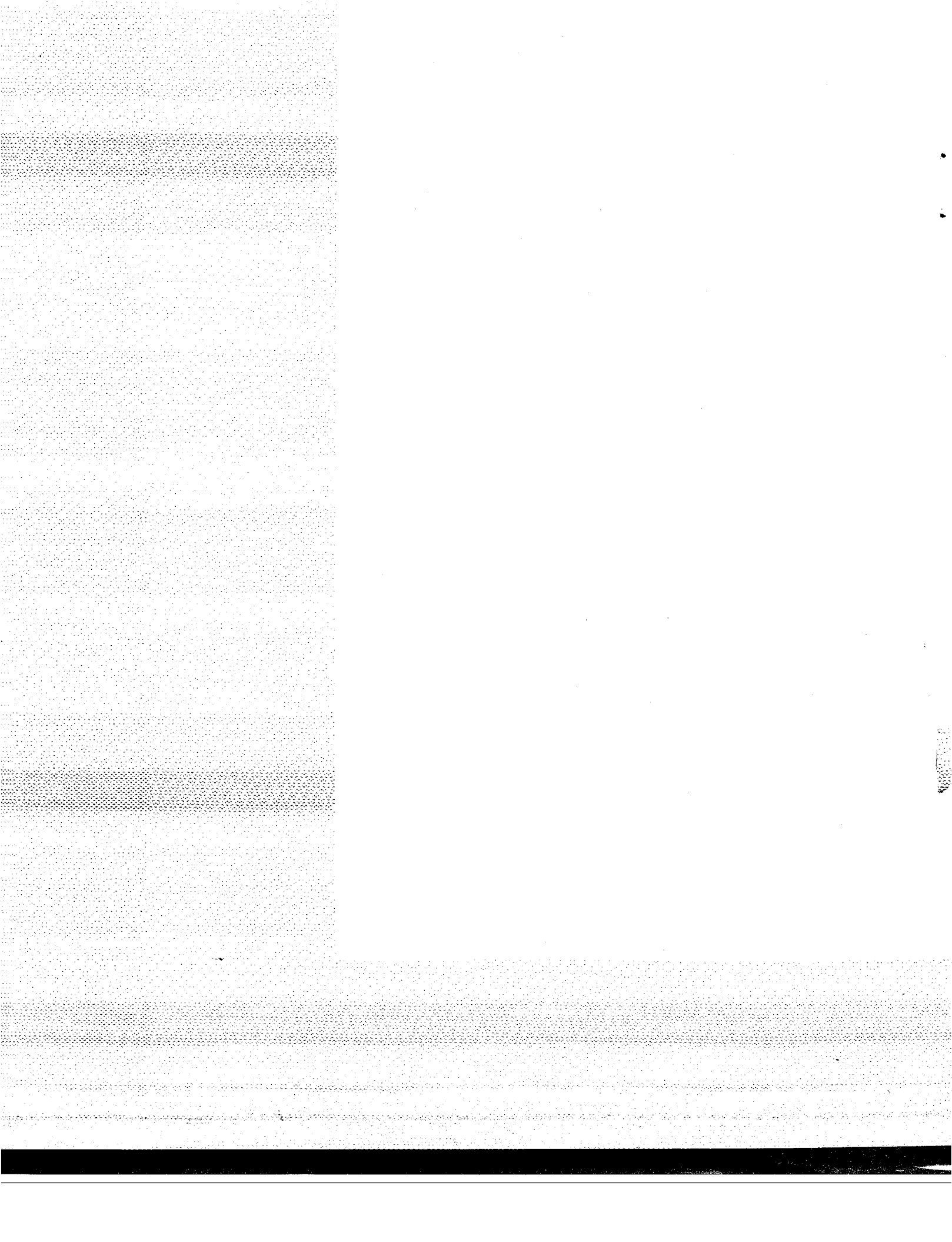
Reflexives I

Prerequisite Modules:

Modules 6, 9

January 1975

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER



Module 12

Reflexives I

In this and the following module, you will learn the use of reflexive constructions in German. The present module contains the following sections:

1. Introduction to Reflexive Constructions, including those with reciprocal meaning; Reflexive Constructions in the Accusative Case
2. Reflexive Constructions in the Dative Case
3. Reflexive Constructions with Separable Prefix Verbs

Module 13 (Reflexives II) will cover reflexive constructions in the imperative, use of the reflexive with modal auxiliary verbs, and special uses of the reflexive to refer to articles of clothing and parts of the body.

1. Introduction to Reflexive Constructions;
Reflexive Constructions in the Accusative Case

Both English and German use so-called reflexive constructions, in which the action of the verb is in some sense targeted at the subject. Consider the following two sentences:

1. Er sieht die Frau. (He sees the woman.)
2. Er sieht sich. (He sees himself.)

In sentence 1, what object or person is the target of the verb sehen (that is, what is "seen"?)

The woman (die Frau) is the target of the verb sehen.

In sentence 2, what object or person is the target of the verb?

In the second sentence, the subject of the verb is also its target, that is to say, the man sees himself. Here the action of the verb is reflexive.

For each of the following English sentences, state whether the action of the verb is reflexive or not reflexive.

1. Mr. Miller is selling his car.
2. The lady sees herself in the mirror.
3. The soldier is shaving himself.
4. Our friends are leaving tomorrow.
5. The children are dressing themselves.
6. He is writing a letter to his girl friend.

In English, reflexive constructions are usually accompanied by reflexive pronouns ("himself," "ourselves," etc.) as seen in the examples above. Occasionally, however, the reflexive pronoun may be omitted in English. For example, one might say "The soldier is shaving," with "himself" understood but not expressed.

In German, however, any sentence having a reflexive meaning **MUST** use a reflexive pronoun. Thus, a sentence such as "He is shaving" would have to be expressed in German as:

Er rasiert sich.

Listen to and repeat the following sentences, noticing the underlined reflexive pronoun and the English translation of the sentence.

SINGULAR

Ich sehe mich im Spiegel.

(I see myself in the mirror.)

Du siehst dich (familiar) im Spiegel.

(You see yourself in the mirror.)

Sie sehen sich (formal) im Spiegel.

(You see yourself in the mirror.)

Er, sie, es sieht sich im Spiegel.

(He, [she, it] sees himself, [herself, itself] in the mirror.)

PLURAL

Wir sehen uns im Spiegel.

(We see ourselves in the mirror.)

Ihr seht euch (familiar) im Spiegel.

(You see yourselves in the mirror.)

Sie sehen sich (formal) im Spiegel.

(You see yourselves in the mirror.)

Sie sehen sich im Spiegel.

(They see themselves in the mirror.)

In sentences such as

Du siehst dich im Spiegel.

in what case would you expect the reflexive pronoun to be?

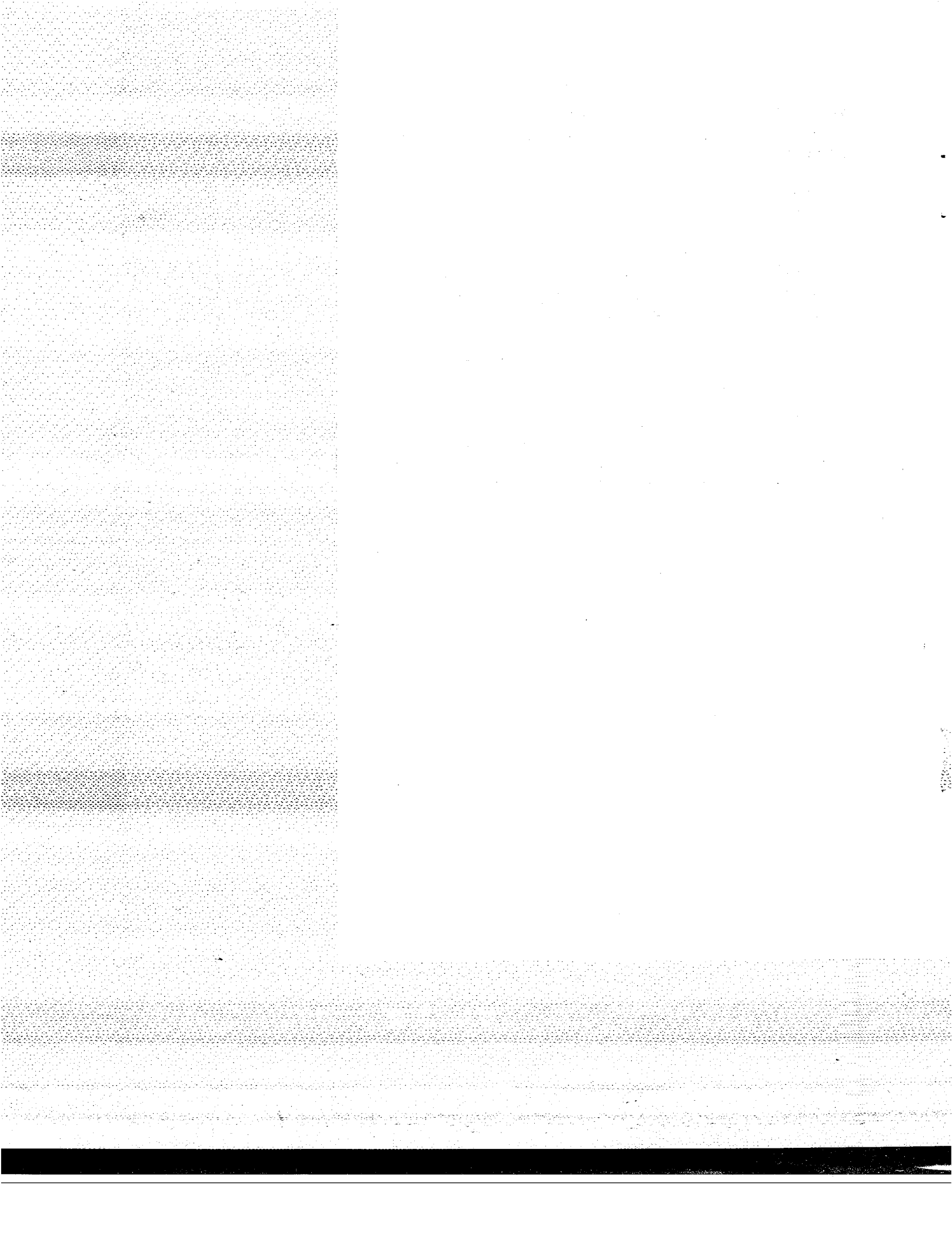
The reflexive pronoun would be in the accusative case, since the reflexive pronoun here functions grammatically as a direct object:

Du	siehst	dich
(You	see	yourself)
Subject	Verb	Direct Object

In fact, you may have noticed that the reflexive pronouns mich, dich, uns, and euch are exactly the same as the accusative case personal pronouns you learned in Modules 7 and 11.

However, the single reflexive pronoun sich is used instead of the accusative pronouns ihn, sie, es ("him," "her," "it"), sie ("them"), and Sie (formal "you," singular and plural).

Study this page and the preceding pages until you feel you know the reflexive pronouns well, then turn the page for exercises on them.



Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive pronoun.

1. Er wäscht _____ nicht oft.
2. Rasierst du _____ jeden Morgen?
3. Ich setze _____ nicht auf dieses Sofa.
4. Sie [you] stellen _____ vor das Kino.
5. Wir amüsieren _____.
6. Sie schneidet _____ in den Finger.
7. Es (das Kind) legt _____ auf den Rasen.
8. Sie [they] treffen _____ vor der Schule.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

- _____ 1. sich
- _____ 2. dich
- _____ 3. mich
- _____ 4. sich
- _____ 5. uns
- _____ 6. sich
- _____ 7. sich
- _____ 8. sich

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences, supplying the appropriate reflexive pronoun.

1. Du setzt auf das Fahrrad.
2. Es (das Kind) schneidet
3. Er trifft mit seinem Freund.
4. Sie [you] sehen jeden Tag.
5. Ich lege auf das Sofa.
6. Sie amüsiert im Urlaub.
7. Sie [they] rasieren nur abends.
8. Ihr wascht nie.

So far in this module, you have worked with the following German reflexive expressions:

sich sehen	see oneself
sich rasieren	shave (oneself)
sich waschen	wash (oneself)
sich setzen	sit down (literally, to seat oneself)
	as opposed to <u>sitzen</u> which denotes the state of being seated.
sich stellen	place oneself (implying motion)
sich amüsieren	have fun (literally, to amuse oneself)
sich legen	lie down (literally, to lay oneself down)
sich treffen	meet (of people)
sich schneiden	cut oneself

Again, you will note that the corresponding English expression is not necessarily reflexive, although the literal meaning usually has a reflexive or reciprocal force. The latter is true of the verb sich treffen (to meet each other, or one another, by prearrangement; to meet with):

Wir treffen uns in der Stadt.
(We meet [each other] downtown.)

"Sich duzen" (to say "du" to one another) is another example of a reflexive verb with reciprocal meaning:

Sie duzen sich.
(They say "du" to one another.)

In the preceding examples the object of the reciprocal action is implied. If the object of the action is to be expressed, this is frequently done by means of a prepositional phrase with mit:

Er trifft sich mit seinem Freund.
(He meets [with] his friend; he and his friend meet each other.)

Duzt ihr euch mit euren Klassenkameraden?
(Do you say "du" to your classmates; do you and your classmates say "du" to each other?)

Reflexive sentences with reciprocal meaning use the same reflexive pronouns and word order as do other reflexive constructions. Section 1 of Module 13 will review the differences in meaning between ordinary and reciprocal reflexive verbs.

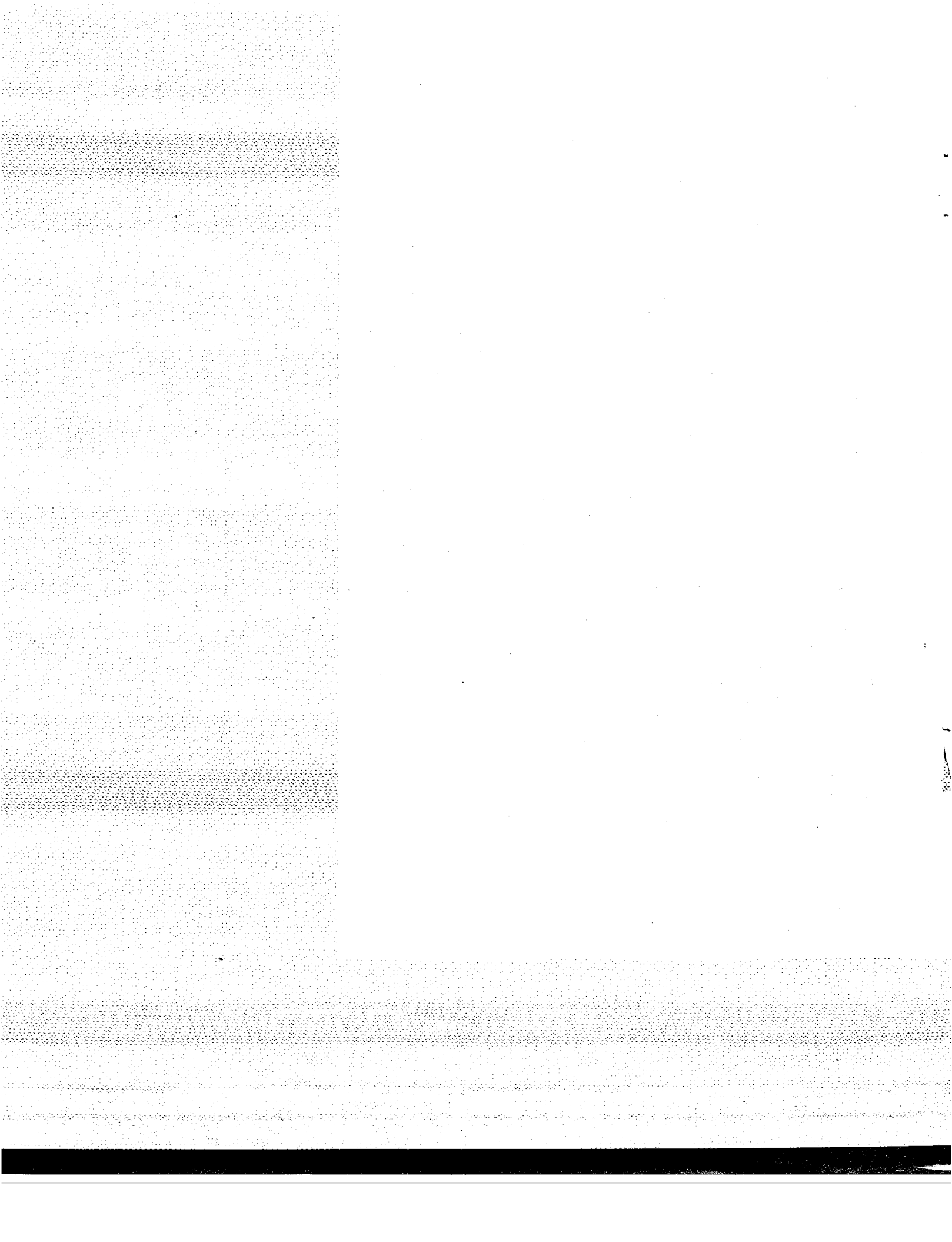
Other reflexive verbs (with or without reciprocal meaning) are:

sich siezen	to say "Sie" to one another
sich entschuldigen	to apologize (literally to excuse oneself)
sich überzeugen	to convince oneself, see for oneself
sich kennen	to know one another

Please note that the infinitive of a reflexive verb is always preceded by the reflexive pronoun sich. Any additional elements making up a reflexive infinitive phrase go between the reflexive pronoun and the verb infinitive, such as:

sich morgens waschen

Study the above expressions (as well as those on the preceding page) until you feel you know them thoroughly, then turn the page for a written exercise.



Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive expression (verb plus reflexive pronoun) on the basis of the given English.

1. Hans and Inge say "du" to each other now.

Hans und Inge _____ jetzt.

2. You'll convince yourselves, for sure.

Ihr _____ bestimmt.

3. You excuse yourself.

Du _____.

4. We have fun on the weekend.

Wir _____ am Wochenende.

5. You sit down on the sofa.

Sie _____ auf das Sofa.

6. Peter and Maria still say "Sie" to each other.

Peter and Maria _____ immer noch.

7. The teacher [masc.] is placing himself behind the desk.

Der Lehrer _____ hinter das Pult.

8. I don't like to wash.

Ich _____ nicht gern.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. duzen sich

_____ 2. überzeugt euch

_____ 3. entschuldigst dich

_____ 4. amüsieren uns

_____ 5. setzen sich

_____ 6. siezen sich

_____ 7. stellt sich

_____ 8. wasche mich

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences, using the appropriate reflexive expression (verb plus reflexive pronoun).

1. You know each other well.
Ihr gut.
2. They shave every morning.
Sie jeden Morgen.
3. We say "Sie" to our neighbors.
Wir mit unseren Nachbarn.
4. The children are having fun in the garden.
Die Kinder im Garten.
5. Do you meet your friend often?
.... du oft mit deinem Freund?
6. I see myself in the mirror.
Ich im Spiegel.
7. You never excuse yourself.
Sie nie.
8. He always cuts himself when he works.
Er immer, wenn er arbeitet.
9. She doesn't like to sit down on the sofa.
Sie nicht gern auf das Sofa.
10. They place themselves in front of the restaurant.
Sie vor das Restaurant.

11. The child lies down on the sofa.

Das Kind auf das Sofa.

12. He washes himself every morning.

Er jeden Morgen.

Section 2

Reflexive Constructions in the Dative Case

2. Reflexive Constructions in the Dative Case

In the preceding section, you practiced a number of reflexive constructions in which the reflexive pronoun was in the accusative case because it was in a sense the direct object of the action expressed in the verb. For example:

Er amüsiert sich.

(He has fun [literally, amuses himself].)

There are a number of situations in which a reflexive construction would be called for, but would require the dative case rather than the accusative. Consider the following English example:

I am buying myself a new car.

In the above sentence, what person or thing is the direct object?

The direct object is "car."

If "car" is the direct object, what sort of object is the reflexive pronoun "myself" in this sentence?

"Myself" serves in this sentence as the indirect object because it denotes the person to or for whom something is being done. You might think of the example sentence as meaning literally "I am buying for myself a new car."

For each of the following English sentences, say whether the reflexive pronoun is a direct object or an indirect object.

1. He orders himself a glass of beer.
2. Mr. Meyer shaves himself every morning.
3. We are buying ourselves a television set.

As you know, indirect objects in German require the dative case. Thus, in sentences which use reflexive pronouns as indirect objects, the reflexive pronouns must be in the dative case form.

Listen to and repeat the following sentences, noticing the underlined dative case reflexive pronoun and the English translation of the sentence.

SINGULAR

Ich kaufe mir ein Haus.

(I buy myself a house.)

Du kaufst dir (familiar) ein Haus.

(You buy yourself a house.)

Sie kaufen sich (formal) ein Haus.

(You buy yourself a house.)

Er, (sie, es) kauft sich ein Haus.

(He buys himself a house.)

PLURAL

Wir kaufen uns ein Haus.

(We buy ourselves a house.)

Ihr kauft euch (familiar) ein Haus.

(You buy yourselves a house.)

Sie kaufen sich (formal) ein Haus.

(You buy yourselves a house.)

Sie kaufen sich ein Haus.

(They buy themselves a house.)

You have probably noticed that the dative reflexive pronouns mir, dir, uns, and euch are identical to the corresponding dative case personal pronouns you learned in Modules 4 and 11. The reflexive pronoun sich is used instead of ihm, ihr, and ihm ("him," "her," and "it"), ihnen ("them"), and Ihnen (formal "you," singular and plural).

The following table summarizes the accusative and dative reflexive pronouns:

<u>Subject Pronoun</u>	<u>Accusative Reflexive Pronoun</u>	<u>Dative Reflexive Pronoun</u>
ich	mich	mir
du	dich	dir
Sie	sich	sich
er, sie, es	sich	sich
wir	uns	uns
ihr	euch	euch
Sie	sich	sich
sie	sich	sich

START THE TAPE.

We will use the following verbs in practicing reflexive constructions which require the dative.

sich bestellen	to order (something) for oneself
sich nehmen	to take (something) for oneself
sich machen	to make (something) for oneself
sich kaufen	to buy (something) for oneself
sich helfen	to help oneself
sich holen	to get (something) for oneself
sich schreiben	to correspond, write to each other

Study the preceding list before going on to the next page.

START THE TAPE.

Reflexive constructions with dative reflexive pronouns are more common in German than in English. For example, where an English speaker might say "I am buying a newspaper" (with "for myself" understood) a German speaker in the same situation would usually include the dative reflexive pronoun:

Ich kaufe mir eine Zeitung.

In the following exercises, the "myself," "yourself," etc. pronouns will occasionally be omitted from the English sentences. However, when giving the German equivalents you should always use the appropriate German reflexive pronoun.

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive expression (verb plus reflexive pronoun).

1. We order beer.

Wir _____ Bier.

2. Helga gets herself the newspaper.

Helga _____ die Zeitung.

3. The students make their breakfast.

Die Studenten _____ ihr Frühstück.

4. The lady buys herself a coat.

Die Dame _____ einen Mantel.

5. You are taking [yourself] a cigarette.

Sie _____ eine Zigarette.

6. Do you always make so much work for yourself?

_____ du _____ immer so viel Arbeit?

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. bestellen uns

_____ 2. holt sich

_____ 3. machen sich

_____ 4. kauft sich

_____ 5. nehmen sich

_____ 6. Machst dir

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences, using the appropriate reflexive expression (verb plus reflexive pronoun).

1. Klaus and Inge are taking a glass of wine.

Klaus und Inge ein Glas Wein.

2. I'm ordering a cup of coffee.

Ich eine Tasse Kaffee.

3. You buy yourself a bicycle.

Du ein Fahrrad.

4. You don't help yourself.

Sie nicht.

5. They get themselves flowers from the garden.

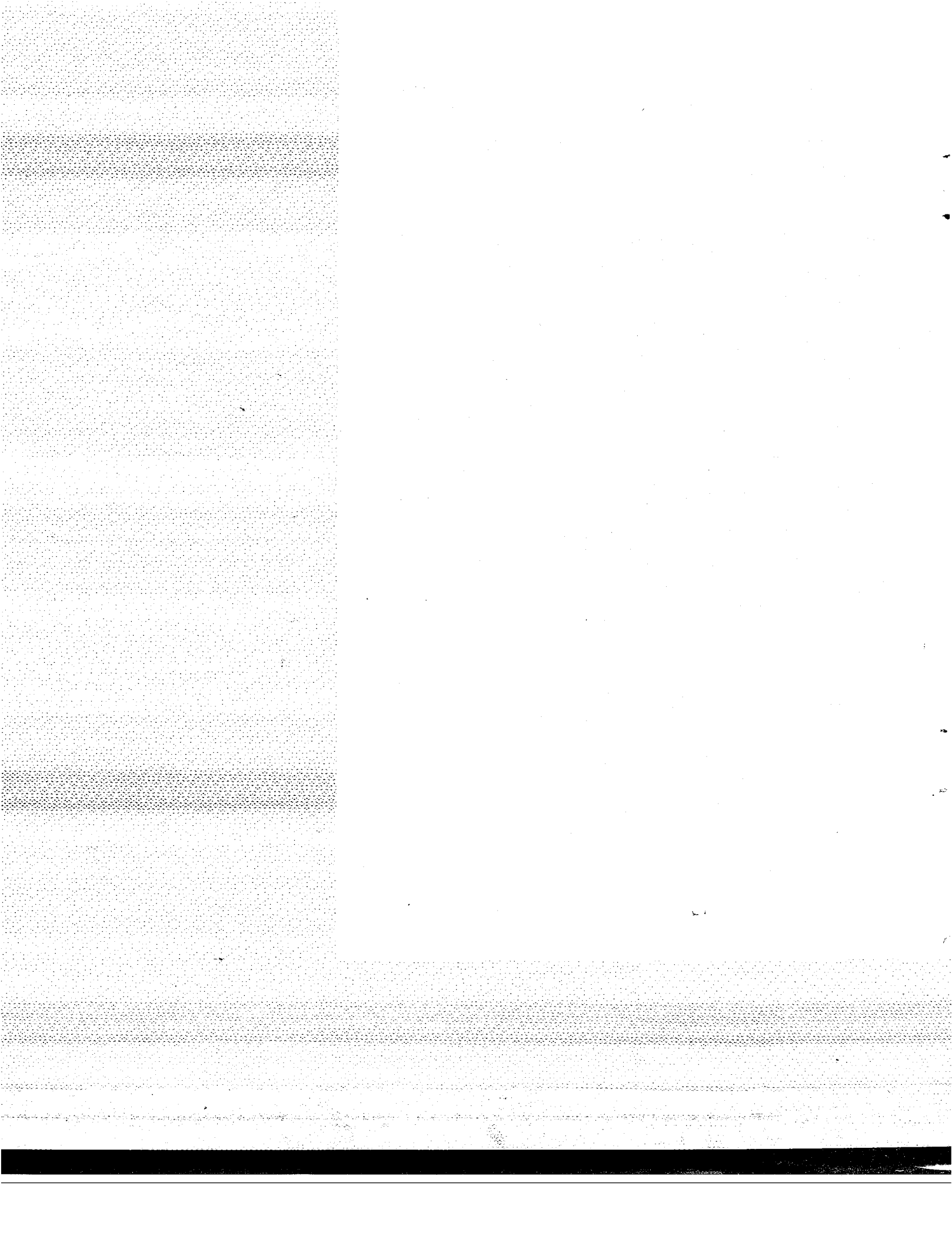
Sie Blumen aus dem Garten.

6. We're making our meal.

Wir unser Essen.

7. Are you taking something to drink?

.... ihr etwas zu trinken?



Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive expressions. Note that both accusative and dative reflexive constructions are required in this exercise.

1. We amuse ourselves during the vacation.

Wir _____ in den Ferien.

2. Karl, are you buying the book?

Karl, _____ du _____ das Buch?

3. They know each other very well.

Sie _____ sehr gut.

4. She says "Sie" to her teacher.

Sie _____ mit ihrem Lehrer.

5. Peter, do you shave every morning?

Peter, _____ du _____ jeden Morgen?

6. Are you taking a taxi?

_____ ihr _____ ein Taxi?

7. I'm making myself a cup of coffee.

Ich _____ eine Tasse Kaffee.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. amüsieren uns

_____ 2. kaufst dir

_____ 3. kennen sich

_____ 4. siezt sich

_____ 5. rasierst dich

_____ 6. Nehmt euch

_____ 7. mache mir

TURN THE PAGE.

8. The child is taking a glass of milk.

Das Kind _____ ein Glas Milch.

9. I apologize to him.

Ich _____ bei ihm.

10. We get ourselves flowers from the garden.

Wir _____ Blumen aus dem Garten.

11. He never washes.

Er _____ nie.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 8. nimmt sich

_____ 9. entschuldige mich

_____ 10. holen uns

_____ 11. wäscht sich

START THE TAPE.

Say the German, using the appropriate reflexive expressions. Note that both accusative and dative reflexive constructions are required in this exercise.

1. I am lying down on the sofa.

Ich auf das Sofa.

2. The students say "du" to each other in class.

Die Schüler im Unterricht.

3. We meet often.

Wir oft.

4. Are you taking a piece of cake?

.... du ein Stück Kuchen?

5. She buys herself a coat.

Sie einen Mantel.

6. Do you cut yourself often?

.... du oft?

7. I amuse myself at the beach.

Ich am Strand.

8. We write to each other often.

Wir oft.

9. You buy yourself a sports car.
Sie einen Sportwagen.
10. Are you taking a piece of chocolate?
.... du ein Stück Schokolade?
11. The child gets himself a ball.
Das Kind einen Ball.
12. You apologize to your friends.
Du bei deinen Freunden.

Section 3

Reflexive Constructions with Separable Prefix Verbs

3. Reflexive Constructions with Separable Prefix Verbs

Reflexive constructions can also be used with separable prefix verbs. In such cases, you would continue to use the appropriate reflexive pronoun (either accusative or dative) but would in addition be sure to place the separable prefix at the end of the sentence or clause.

Sich anziehen is a reflexive construction which means "to get dressed" (literally, "to dress oneself").

Remembering the position of the separable prefix, how would you say "He gets dressed" in German?

You would say: Er zieht sich an.

In this section, you will practice reflexive constructions using the following verbs:

sich anziehen	get dressed (literally, to dress oneself)
sich ausziehen	get undressed (literally, to undress oneself)
sich kennenlernen	become acquainted; meet for the first time; get to know one another

Study the above three verbs, then turn the page for exercises.

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive expressions. Note that accusative constructions are used throughout.

1. You dress yourselves warmly.

Ihr _____ warm _____.

2. They'll soon become acquainted with each other at school.

Sie _____ bald in der Schule _____.

3. I am getting dressed quickly.

Ich _____ schnell _____.

4. The child doesn't like to get undressed.

Das Kind _____ nicht gern _____.

5. Are you meeting each other for the first time tonight?

_____ ihr _____ heute
abend _____?

6. Why don't you get dressed?

Warum _____ du _____ nicht _____?

7. At the doctor's one usually undresses.

Beim Arzt _____ man _____ gewöhnlich
_____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.



If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. zieht euch an

_____ 2. lernen sich
kennen

_____ 3. ziehe mich an

_____ 4. zieht sich aus

_____ 5. Lernt euch
kennen

_____ 6. ziehst dich
an

_____ 7. zieht sich
aus

Say complete German sentences, supplying the appropriate reflexive constructions in the accusative case.

1. The students get to know each other at school.
Die Schüler in der Schule
2. Aren't you getting dressed?
.... ihr nicht?
3. It's easy to get to know people at parties.
Auf Parties man leicht
4. You are getting undressed and going to sleep.
Du und gehst schlafen.
5. The children don't like to get dressed.
Die Kinder nicht gern
6. In the winter I always dress warmly.
Im Winter ich immer warm

The following verbs with separable prefixes use a dative construction:

sich (etwas) einschenken pour something
 (for oneself)

sich (etwas) ansehen look at, watch (some-
thing); look something
over; scrutinize; take
in; see the sights

sich (etwas) anziehen put on something

sich (etwas) ausziehen take off something

Note: Remember that sich anziehen and sich ausziehen
in the accusative case translate (into) "to
get dressed" and "to get undressed,"
respectively.

Study the above list, then turn the page for
exercises.

Fill in the blanks, using reflexive expressions in the dative case.

1. We are putting on our coats.

Wir _____ die Mäntel _____.

2. I pour myself a glass of wine.

Ich _____ ein Glas Wein _____.

3. They are looking at the house.

Sie _____ das Haus _____.

4. The soldier is taking off his uniform.

Der Soldat _____ die Uniform _____.

5. Are you watching the movie tonight?

_____ ihr _____ heute abend den

Film _____ ?

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. ziehen uns an

_____ 2. schenke mir ein

_____ 3. sehen sich an

_____ 4. zieht sich aus

_____ 5. Seht euch an

START THE TAPE.

Fill in the blanks, using the appropriate reflexive pronoun. Note that both dative and accusative reflexive constructions are used in this exercise.

1. I am seeing the sights of Berlin.

Ich _____ Berlin _____.

2. You pour yourself milk.

Du _____ Milch _____.

3. He gets undressed at the doctor's.

Er _____ beim Arzt _____.

4. I get dressed slowly.

Ich _____ langsam _____.

5. Why don't you pour yourself some coffee?

Warum _____ du _____ keinen Kaffee _____?

6. Are you looking at the magazine?

_____ du _____ die Zeitschrift

_____?

7. The child doesn't like to undress at night.

Das Kind _____ abends nicht gern _____.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. sehe mir an

_____ 2. schenkst dir ein

_____ 3. zieht sich aus

_____ 4. ziehe mich an

_____ 5. schenkst dir
..... ein

_____ 6. Siehst dir an

_____ 7. zieht sich aus

TURN THE PAGE.

8. Are you getting acquainted tonight?

_____ ihr _____ heute abend _____ ?

9. You are putting on your coat.

Du _____ den Mantel _____.

10. I am getting undressed now.

Ich _____ jetzt _____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 8. Lernt euch
kennen

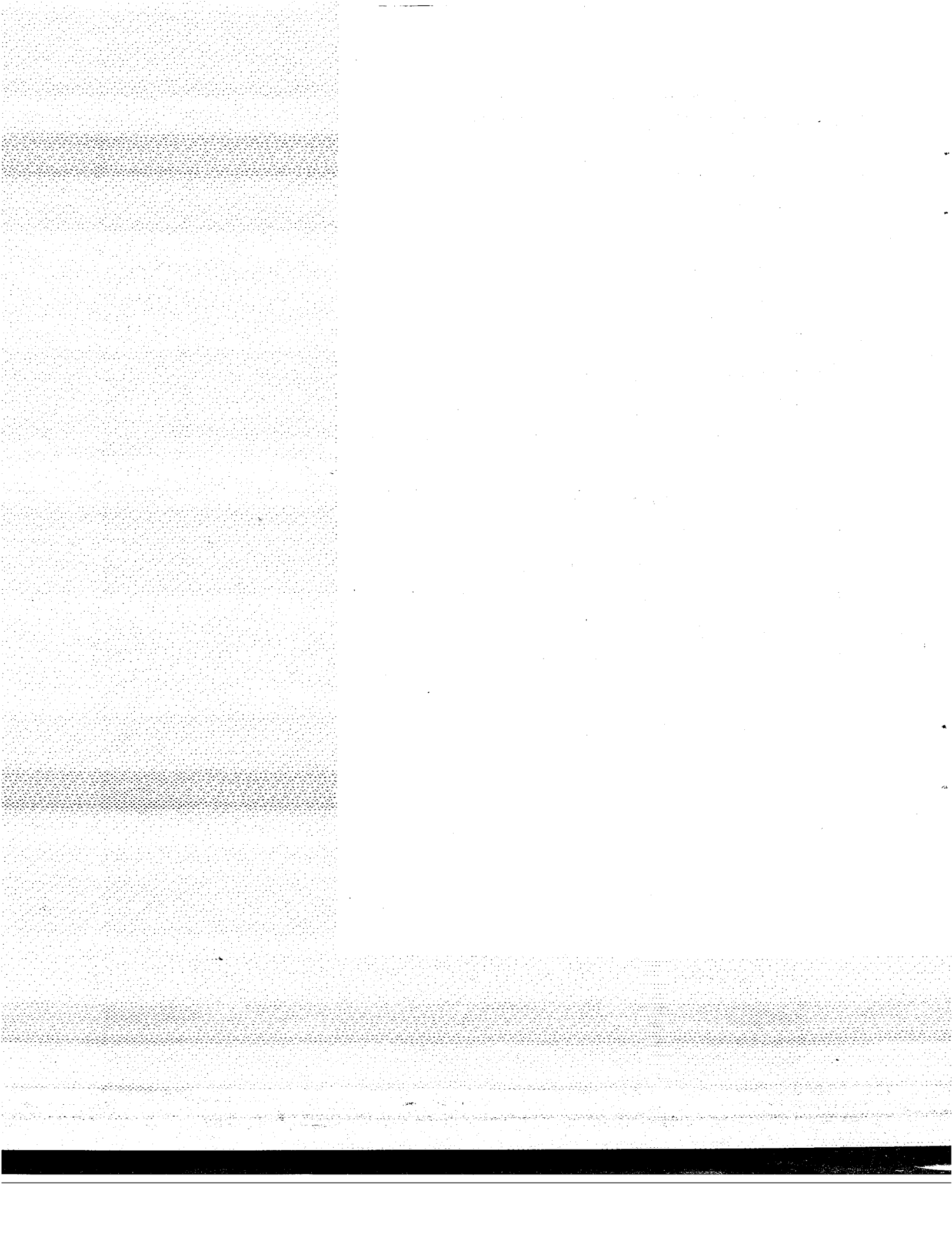
_____ 9. ziehst dir an

_____ 10. ziehe mich aus

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences, using the appropriate reflexive constructions. Note that both accusative and dative forms are called for.

1. She gets dressed quickly.
Sie schnell
2. We are looking at a house.
Wir ein Haus
3. The gentleman takes off his coat.
Der Herr den Mantel
4. She is sightseeing in Berlin.
Sie Berlin
5. You undress slowly.
Du langsam
6. She pours herself a glass of wine.
Sie ein Glas Wein
7. Why don't you put on your uniform today?
Warum du heute nicht die Uniform?
8. In the winter, I always dress warmly.
Im Winter ich immer warm
9. You'll get acquainted tonight.
Ihr heute abend



Module 12

Test

12-49

Module 12

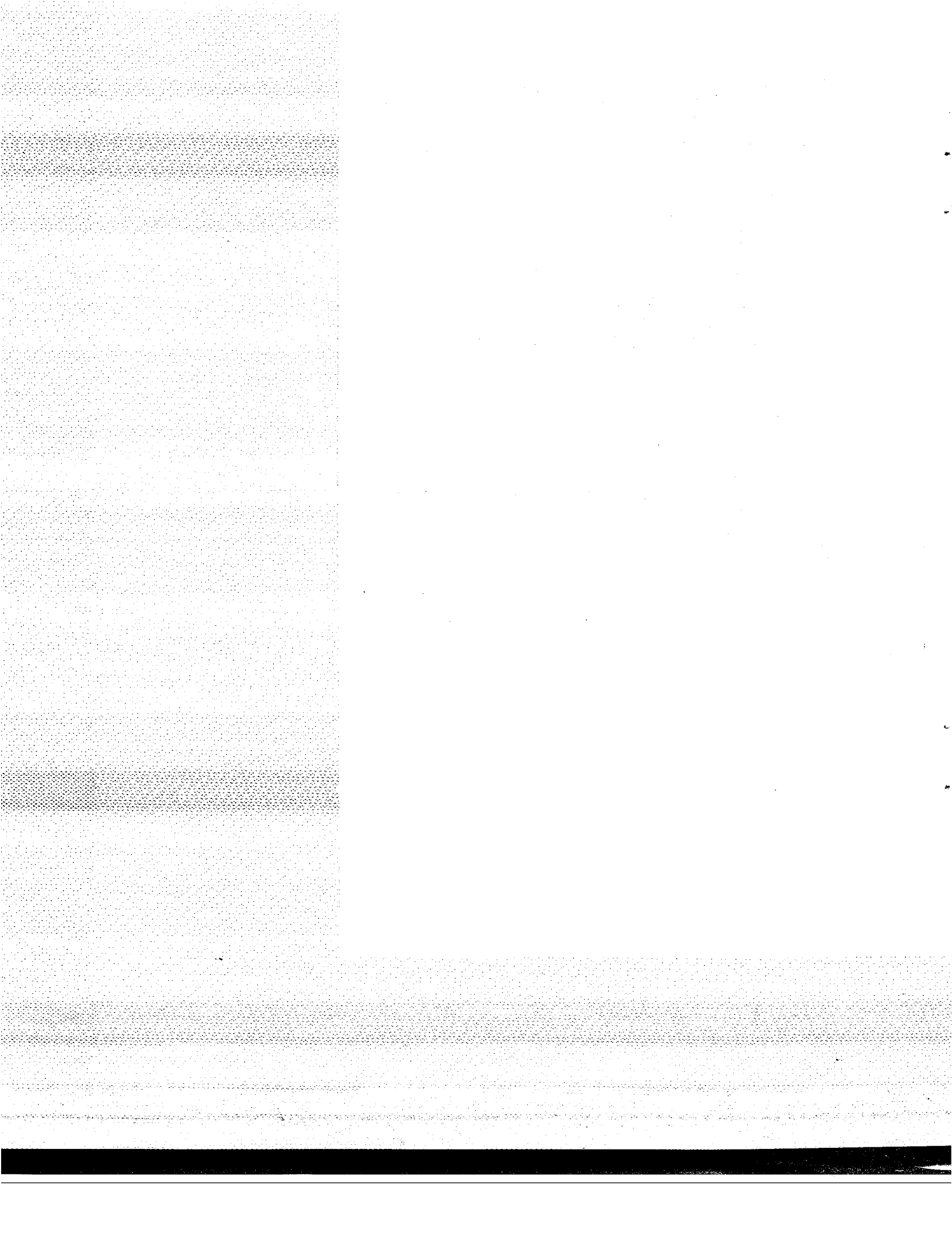
Test

Say complete German sentences, supplying the appropriate reflexive construction.

1. Do you shave every morning?
.... du jeden Morgen?
2. We are meeting in front of the movie theater.
Wir vor dem Kino.
3. The child amuses himself at the playground.
Das Kind auf dem Spielplatz.
4. He gets himself a glass of beer.
Er ein Glas Bier.
5. I am taking three weeks vacation.
Ich drei Wochen Urlaub.
6. Inge is sitting down on the sofa.
Inge auf das Sofa.
7. Peter is placing himself behind the car.
Peter hinter das Auto.
8. The ladies write to each other often.
Die Damen oft.
9. The girl sees herself in the mirror.
Das Mädchen im Spiegel.

Say complete German sentences, supplying the appropriate reflexive construction.

1. Are you getting dressed now?
.... du jetzt?
2. We pour ourselves wine.
Wir Wein
3. They'll certainly get to know each other tonight.
Sie heute abend sicher
4. You are looking at the books.
Ihr die Bücher
5. The child is getting dressed in the living room.
Das Kind im Wohnzimmer
6. Are you seeing the sights of Berlin?
.... Sie Berlin?
7. You undress quickly.
Du schnell



Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive construction.

1. Tomorrow I'm going to buy a new sports car.

Morgen _____ ich _____ einen neuen Sportwagen.

2. The child is placing himself on the chair.

Das Kind _____ auf den Stuhl.

3. They amuse themselves at the beach.

Sie _____ am Strand.

4. We don't meet often.

Wir _____ nicht oft.

5. Are you making yourself a new coat, Mrs. Müller?

_____ Sie _____ einen neuen Mantel, Frau Müller?

6. Are you taking a cigar?

_____ du _____ eine Zigarre?

7. Does she cut herself often?

_____ sie _____ oft?

TURN THE PAGE.

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate reflexive construction.

1. Tomorrow I'm going to buy a new sports car.

Morgen kaufe ich mir einen neuen Sportwagen.

2. The child is placing himself on the chair.

Das Kind stellt sich auf den Stuhl.

3. They amuse themselves at the beach.

Sie amüsieren sich am Strand.

4. We don't meet often.

Wir treffen uns nicht oft.

5. Are you making yourself a new coat, Mrs. Müller?

Machen Sie sich einen neuen Mantel, Frau Müller?

6. Are you taking a cigar?

Nimmst du dir eine Zigarre?

7. Does she cut herself often?

Schneidet sie sich oft?

TURN THE PAGE.

8. I am meeting my friend at the restaurant.

Ich _____ mit meinem Freund im Restaurant.

9. Do you know each other?

_____ ihr _____ ?

TURN THE PAGE.

