

The Many Uses of Se

Languages

Six different jobs done by one two-letter word.

Same word, entirely different grammar in each row.

Use	Example	Means
Reflexive	Se lava	He washes himself
Reciprocal	Se abrazan	They hug each other
Impersonal	Se habla español	Spanish is spoken
Passive	Se venden casas	Houses are sold
Accidental	Se me cayó	It fell (not my fault)
Replacing le/les	Se lo di	I gave it to him

Se me olvidó is the standard way to say 'I forgot' — grammatically, the thing forgot itself to you.