Let’s say this composition prompt ask you to do the same only in the past:

**Describe your daily routine yesterday.** *(Please include reflexive verbs in the preterite)*

This sounds simple and it is when you follow a few simple rules.

1. **RULE #1** Say what you CAN say and not what you WANT to say.
2. **RULE #2** Use Spanish forms not English forms.
3. **RULE #3** Know when you are receiving proper help and when you are crossing a line.

Back to our Prompt.

**Describe your daily routine yesterday.**

This sentence comes to mind....

*I got out of bed, I took a shower and I ate breakfast.*

If I run this through an online translator I will come up with something like this — ----

*Yo tuve fuera de la cama, di una ducha y me comí el desayuno.*

- When using my online resources properly all I have to do is think about the infinitive form of the verb. In this case what is the infinitive* for the verb for *to get out of bed*.
- Go to word reference.com and type in *get out of bed*. Ok, nothing came up! This thing must be broken.
- Is there another way to say it? Maybe... *Get up*.
- That works. -- **Levantarse**
- Now to get that verb conjugated in the *yo* form in the preterite, You take the “se” on the end and move it in front in the correct form. Which would be... me.
- Yo me levanté de la cama.

*The infinitive is the form that will end in *ar, er, ir* or have an additional se added to it if it is reflexive. The infinitive is the to form in English and is what you will see in the vocabulary section in your texts. Example: dormir-to sleep dormirse-to fall asleep.*

So now we have gotten the first one taken care of, but what about *take a shower and eat breakfast*, These are a touch more tricky. They are one word verbs with one reflex in front of them. They say “to shower oneself” and “to breakfast oneself”. It’s a fancy way of saying that the subject and the direct object are the same person. They do the same with all the meals. Find the infinitive* form of the verb and get it in the right verb tense. If you don’t know how to do that...AND THIS IS IMPORTANT...schedule a meeting with your instructor. The infinitive or “to shower oneself” is **Bañarse** and the infinitive of “to breakfast oneself” is **Desayunarse**.

So I believe that we have come to the final version of our sentence....

**Me levanté de la cama, me duché y me desayuné.**

#The infinitive is the form that will end in *ar, er, ir* or have an additional se added to it if it is reflexive. The infinitive is the to form in English and is what you will see in the vocabulary section in your texts. Example: dormir-to sleep dormirse-to fall asleep.

Back to the rules.

1. For your level of Spanish you cannot write hypothetical. You also should steer clear of highly complex and compound sentence structure. SAY WHAT YOU CAN not what you want to. Any Spanish instructor that sees a sentence with verb tenses that you don’t know how to create or with elements of a sentence that smell like a translator generated them will more than likely call you out. You don’t want to risk academic dishonesty. CHECK YOUR SYLLABUS!
2. Also make sure to include the asked for elements in every sentence if at all possible. Look for the underlined (reflexive) and bold (preterite) elements.
3. As much as the internet rocks, it is not a replacement for the basic logic of a simple equation. Who knew that you were going to learn math and Spanish right? If you remember this equation before you start to work on anything to do with Spanish, you will be headed in the right direction.

**ENGLISH≠SPANISH**

If we could simply place one language on top of the other then these online translator would work. So please do not risk your academic careers. Take the extra time and use the right resources.

GOOD LUCK!!!