

14 *this, that, these, those*



1 Form

	ADJECTIVE (BEFORE A NOUN)	PRONOUN (WITHOUT A NOUN)
singular	<i>This coat is expensive. That building is beautiful.</i>	<i>This is expensive. That is beautiful.</i>
plural	<i>These coats are expensive. Those buildings are beautiful.</i>	<i>These are expensive. Those are beautiful.</i>

We use a singular verb after *this/that* and a plural verb after *these/those*.

2 Near or far?

We use *this* and *these* to talk about things that are near us:

*Excuse me. Is **this** seat free?* (the seat near us)

*I need some new glasses – **these** are broken.* (the glasses I am holding)

We use *that* and *those* for things that are not near us:

*Look at the sky – **that's** the North Star.*

*I'd like some pens – how much are **those** on the top shelf?*

3 Now or then?

We also use *this/these* to talk about now or a time that is near us:

***This** lesson is interesting.* (the lesson we are in now)

*I hate **these** cold winter days.* (the winter days we have now)

*I'm doing a lot of exercise **these** days.* (at the present time)

*What are you doing **this** evening?* (It's the morning or afternoon now.)

We use *that/those* to talk about a situation in the past:

*What did you think of **that** lesson yesterday?*

*There were no cars in **those** days.* (at a time in the past)

4 *this is/is that ... ?*

We use *this is ...* to introduce someone:

*Peter, **this** is Jane.*

We use *this is ...* and *is that ... ?* on the phone:

*'Hello, can I speak to Joan?' **'This** is Joan speaking.'*

*'Is **that** Angela?' 'No, she isn't here at the moment.'*