

5 Demonstratives *this, that, these, those*



1 Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns

	ADJECTIVE (+ noun)	PRONOUN (without a noun)
singular	<i>This museum is interesting. That sculpture is beautiful.</i>	<i>This is interesting. That is beautiful.</i>
plural	<i>These tickets are expensive. Those sculptures are very old.</i>	<i>These are expensive. Those are very old.</i>

We often use *this/that one* or *those/these ones*:

*Which shirt do you prefer? **This one** or **that one**?* (= This shirt or that shirt?)

2 Near or far?

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

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

***These** are the tickets.* (the tickets I am holding)

We use *that* and *those* for things that are further away:

***That's** an African elephant.* (the one I am pointing at in the distance)

*Look at **those** mountains, *they're huge.* (the ones in the distance)*

3 Now or then?

We also use *this/these* to describe a time that is now or in the near future:

*I'm doing a lot of exercise **these** days.* (around now)

*What are you doing **this** weekend?* (the weekend that is coming/has just started)

We use *that/those* for a time in the past:

*There were no mobile phones in **those** days.*

*Do you remember **that** weekend at the seaside?* (a weekend in the past)

4 Describing a person, thing or idea

We use *this/that/these/those* to describe a person, thing or idea:

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

*I hate **these** dark nights.* (the winter nights we are having now)

*I didn't know **that**! **That's** amazing!* (the information you've just given me)

***Those** people we met on holiday were really nice.* (people we met in the past)

We use *this is/these are* to introduce people:

*Mum, **these are** my friends from college. **This is** Jan and **this is** her sister, Frieda.*

On the phone we usually use *it's* to identify ourselves:

*'Hi! **It's** me/**It's** Sarah here.'*

We use *this is* when we don't know the person we are speaking to:

*'Hello. **This is** Sarah Smith. May I speak to the manager?'*