

English Grammar – Demonstrative Pronouns: “this” / “these” / “that” / “those”

	Near	Far
Single	this	that
Plural	these	those

1) this / these

We use **this** (singular) and **these** (plural) to talk about **near** things:

- What's **this**?
- **This** coffee is very good.
- Do you like **these** shoes?
- We live in **this** house.
- I like **these** books.

and to introduce people:

- **This** is Janet.
- **These** are my friends, John and Michael.

and to begin a conversation **on the telephone**:

- Hello, **this** is David, Can I speak to Sally, please?

2) that / those

We use **that** (singular) and **those** (plural) to talk about **far** things:

- What's **that**?
- Who lives in **that** house?
- **Those** shoes are very nice.
- Who are **those** people?

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egRrGT9pSa0> (9 minutes)

Exercise. Complete with 'this', 'that', 'these' or 'those'.

1. _____ chicken is delicious!
2. Telephone: " _____ is Sandra speaking. Can I help you?"
3. _____ shoes are very uncomfortable. Can I change them?
4. Wow! I like _____ Porsche over there.
5. Nice to meet you. I am John, and _____ are my kids, Peter and Lizzy.
6. Who are _____ people on the roof?
7. What is _____ on my shoe?
8. What is _____ on your shoe?

In Portuguese:

this:	<i>este, esta, isto</i>
that:	<i>aquele, aquela, aquilo, esse, essa, isso</i>
these:	<i>estes, estas</i>
those:	<i>aqueles, aquelas, esses, essas</i>

Demonstrative Pronouns: Temporal References

this(S) / these(P)

1. Time: close past or future
2. Space: close to speaker
3. Speech/Text: something recently mentioned or to be mentioned

that(S) / those(P)

1. Time: distant past or future
2. Space: far from speaker or close to listener
3. Speech/Text: something previously mentioned (recently or otherwise)

Examples

- I started work this Monday.
 - I'm going to the beach this weekend.
 - Look at this book that I bought yesterday.
 - This idea of yours seems excellent.
 - I have an idea. This one you will like!
 - I have been feeling weak these days.
 - These next few days will be tough for me.
 - Do you like these shoes? I bought them yesterday.
 - I love these ideas of yours.
 - I have some ideas. These ones you will like!
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- I was very sick at that time.
 - I will retire in ten years' time. That will be a good day!
 - That sweater suits you.
 - I think that cloud will produce rain.
 - I have been thinking about that idea of yours.
 - Those were the days!
 - I will retire in ten years' time. Those will be good days!
 - Look at those trees moving in the wind.
 - I like those shoes that you're wearing.
 - I loved those ideas that you presented at the meeting last week.
 - A: Maybe I will retire early. B: That'll be the day!