

## FUNCTION OF DEMONSTRATIVES

Whether speaking or listening, reading or writing, we use *reference type* words to identify people or things in a particular context, to refer back to ideas, facts or information, to point to something mentioned earlier or to track participants (someone or something) in a story.

It may be talking about our preference for 'these shoes' in relation to some other ones, reading about 'those who participated in the survey', writing about 'this remedy to a pollution problem' as opposed to another or listening for information about the answer to 'the person who stole that car'.

### STUDY TIPS

Remember when referring to or talking about people or things, which are near to you in space or time, use **this** and **these**.

If they are more distant in space or time then **that** and **those** are used.

These are examples of **demonstratives** and their function is to indicate the proximity in time and space of what is being identified, referred to, discussed, described, pointed to, explained etc.

## IDENTIFYING DEMONSTRATIVES

There are four demonstratives:

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
this	these
that	those

They can function either as adjectives or as pronouns.

### Demonstrative adjectives

	Demonstrative Adjective	Noun	Verb	
<b>Singular</b>	<b>This</b>	fruit	is	refreshing.
	<b>These</b>	shoes	are	comfortable.
<b>Plural</b>	<b>That</b>	house	is	sold.
	<b>Those</b>	apartments	sold	recently.

### Demonstrative pronouns

	Demonstrative Pronouns	Verb	
<b>Singular</b>	<b>This</b>	is	Jane
	<b>These</b>	are	my friends.
<b>Plural</b>	<b>That</b>	is	appalling.
	<b>Those</b>	are	delicious.

## Other forms

### Singular

this }  
that } + one

Which hat do you like? I like **this one**. I like **that one**.

### Plural

these  
those

Which flowers do you prefer? **These** are more fragrant than **those**.

### Comparative statements using that/those

noun phrase + verb + ...er than + that + of noun phrase  
those

The fruit in tropical regions is *tastier than that* of other areas.

## Meaning

Demonstratives are used to differentiate between the proximity of a speaker, listener, thing, object etc. in terms of both time and space.

Proximity			
nearness		remoteness	
space			
'here'	The apartment in <b>this</b> building is going to auction. <b>These</b> students are waiting to enrol.	'there'	I don't know whether <b>that</b> apartment will be auctioned. <b>Those</b> students are picking up their student card.
time			
'now'	Do you know which courses they've scheduled <b>this</b> semester? <b>These</b> days we correspond via e-mail.	'then'	Did you know they only offered one elective in <b>that</b> semester? In <b>those</b> days we used "snail mail".

## Context and meaning

Demonstrative	Meaning	Example
this	an action or experience which takes place in the near future	<b>This</b> is going to be interesting film!
that	an action or experience which took place in the past	<b>That</b> was a great movie!
this/these	showing interest in or approval of someone/ something	I'm dying to hear about <b>this</b> holiday on the Riviera.
that/those	showing dislike of someone/ something	You aren't buying <b>that</b> suit, are you?
those who....	an expression which refers to <i>those people who</i>	<b>Those who</b> participated in the questionnaire will be compensated.
this/these	used in expressions referring to current periods of time	this morning, this week, this Saturday, these days, this July, this year, this evening, this month, this afternoon
this	used when introducing a story or joke	Once upon a time there was <b>this</b> beautiful princess....

Short phrases		
this and that; this, that and the other	used when talking about a variety of things	So, what did you get up to today? Oh, I did <b>this, that and the other</b> .
this is it	used in reference to something which is expected to happen and does actually happen	<b>This is it</b> , guys, the swimming trials are finally here. We either make it or break it.
that's that	an emphatic expression used to say that something can't be changed	I said you can't go to the party and <b>that's that</b> .
just like that	an emphatic expression used to say something is done in a simple way or without much thought	<b>Just like that</b> , he packed his bags and caught the next flight out.
at that	used after a statement to emphasise what was just said or done	The style doesn't suit you, and it's probably too expensive <b>at that</b> .