

There are only five demonstrative pronouns in English: **this**, **that**, **these**, **those** and **such**. Demonstrative pronouns can behave either as pronouns or as adjectives.

When used as pronouns, these words identify or point to nouns.

- **That** was an incredible experience. (Here the demonstrative pronoun that refers to something the speaker just talked about.)
- I don't believe **this**. (Here the demonstrative pronoun this refers to something mentioned in a previous sentence.)
- **Such** was his command over the language. (Here the demonstrative pronoun such refers to an explanation just made.)

As adjectives, the demonstratives modify a noun that follows. We can convey a sense of distance in time and space through the choice of demonstratives.

This and these are used to denote things and situations closer in space and time.

- Get **this bird** off my shoulder. (Here the reference is to a bird sitting on the speaker's shoulder. It is very close to him in space.)
- Get **that cat** off the piano. (Here the reference is to a cat sitting on a piano away from the speaker.)

**These** and **those** are the plural forms of **this** and **that**.

- Listen to **this**. (Here we are referring to a situation which is just about to start.)

**That** and **those** can be used to talk about experiences which have just finished.

- **That** was an unforgettable experience. (Here we are talking about something happened in the past.)

### Acceptance and rejection

**This** and **these** are used to show acceptance or interest. **That** and **those** can show rejection or dislike.

- **That boy** of yours has stained my walls. (dislike)
- Tell me about **this new project** of yours. (interest)