

65 "This / that / these / those"

"This," "that," "these," and "those" can be used as determiners before a noun to specify which noun is being talked about. They can also be used as pronouns to replace a noun in a sentence.

See also:

Singular and plural nouns **69**

Personal pronouns **77** Possession **80**

65.1 "THIS" AND "THAT" AS DETERMINERS

"This" and "that" are only used with singular nouns. "This" is used for something close, and "that" for something farther away.



This house is too big.

The house is close to you.



That house is too small.

The house is farther away from you.



This job is great.

"This" refers to the job that the speaker is currently doing.



That job was boring.

"That" refers to a job in the past that isn't being done anymore.

"Was" is in the past tense.

"This" can also be used for something current or present, and "that" can be used for something absent or in the past.

FURTHER EXAMPLES



This essay is proving to be really difficult.



That cake in the window looks incredible.



I like **this** rabbit so much I want to take it home.



I'd like to see **that** play this weekend.



When I eat out I always order **this** rice dish.



This show is great, but I didn't like **that** other show as much.

Uncountable nouns are only used with "this" and "that," never "these" and "those."

"Other" can be used after "that" to stress that it is different to the first noun.

65.2 "THESE" AND "THOSE" AS DETERMINERS

"These" and "those" are only used with plural nouns. "These" is used for things close by or current. "Those" is used for things farther away or in the past.

This cake is delicious.



These cakes are delicious.



"These" is the plural of "this."

"These" and "those" go before plural nouns.

That sandwich tastes bad.



Those sandwiches look better.



"Those" is the plural of "that."

"These" and "those" go before plural nouns.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

These new shoes are hurting my feet.



These books are so heavy! I can't carry them.



I hope **these** exams go well.



Those sunglasses look great on you!



I don't think **these** vegetables are very fresh.



I like the look of **those** Caribbean cruises..



These books are so heavy! I can't carry them.



I'll take **those** apples and **these** bananas, please.



65.3 "THIS" AND "THAT" AS PRONOUNS

"This" and "that" can replace singular nouns in a sentence. They point out a specific thing. "This" is used for something close, and "that" is used for something farther away.



This is my dog.

The dog is close to you.



That is my dog.

The dog is farther away from you.



"This" can also be used for something current or present, and "that" can be used for something absent or in the past.



This is a great party.

"This" means the party is happening now.

"That" means the party has already happened.



That was such a fun party yesterday.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

This is a great honor. Thank you everyone for coming.



That was so exciting.



This has always been the most beautiful park.



If you could do a blow-dry, **that** would be great.



This is the perfect laptop for creative work.



That sounded out of tune. I'd get the piano fixed.



This is the best soup I've ever tasted.



That looks great. Is the car new?



65.4 "THESE" AND "THOSE" AS PRONOUNS

"These" and "those" can replace plural nouns in a sentence. "These" is used for things close by or current. "Those" is used for things farther away or in the past.



This is my bag.



That is my bag.



"These" is the plural of "this."



These are my bags.

"Those" is the plural of "that."



Those are my bags.



"These" and "those" are also used for contrast. "These" things belong to one person.



These are my bags and **those** are your bags.

"Those" things belong to another person.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

These are the best kind of shoes to wear when running.



I think **those** will probably taste better with sauce.



These are the only clothes I own.



Those aren't very good for you. Try **these** instead.



65.5 SUBSTITUTING WITH "THAT" AND "THOSE"

"That" and "those" can be used in place of a noun phrase to mean "the one" or "the ones."

"That" refers to "policy."

The new policy is better than **that** of before.



"Those who" means "people who."

I disapprove of **those** who don't recycle.

