



This, That, These, and Those

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“This,” “That,” “These,” and “Those” can be followed by either a **verb** or a **noun**, but it’s important to know the difference between these two constructions, and which construction is suitable for formal expository writing.

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstratives

Demonstrative Adjectives

When a **demonstrative** is followed by a **verb** (an action word), it is a **demonstrative pronoun**.

The words “This,” “That,” “These,” and “Those” are **demonstratives**. They are used to show or “demonstrate” a distinction between different entities.

When a **demonstrative** is followed by a **noun** (a person, place, or thing), it is a **demonstrative adjective**.

This is mine.

This clearly **shows** the external conflict between the two characters.

This

This iPad is mine.

This dialogue clearly shows the external conflict between the two characters.

That was delicious.

That represented a particularly active period for the author.

That

That pizza was delicious.

That decade represented a particularly active period for the author.

These will be expensive.

These will appear in the coming months or years.

These

These textbooks will be expensive.

These next novels in the series will appear in the coming months or years.

Those are beautiful.

Those reveal sensory imagery most evocatively.

Those

Those shoes are beautiful.

Those rhetorical devices reveal sensory imagery most evocatively.



In formal expository writing, it’s best to **avoid demonstrative pronouns** because it’s often unclear what the demonstrative is referring to.

Be sure to proofread your formal expository writing carefully to ensure you’re **using demonstrative adjectives** and **not demonstrative pronouns**.

In formal expository writing, it’s best to **use demonstrative adjectives** because they clearly identify what the demonstrative is referring to.