**Grammar: Demonstratives - This, that, these, those**

**Demonstratives** are words that show which person or thing is being referred to.

In the sentence:

**'This** is my brother',

**'this'** is a demonstrative

The demonstratives in English are **this**, **that**, **these**, and **those**

### Demonstrative pronouns VS demonstrative adjectives

A distinction must be made between **demonstrative adjectives**(or **demonstrative determiners**) and **demonstrative pronouns** (or **independent demonstratives**).

A demonstrative adjective modifies a noun:

***This*** apple is good. I like those houses. (**This** modifies 'apple' and **those** modifies 'houses')

A demonstrative pronoun stands on its own, replacing rather than modifying a noun:

This is good. I like those. (**This** and **those** don't modify any nouns they stand alone and replace other nouns)

### Use of demonstratives: Demonstratives differ according to:

* distance: near or far,
* or number: singular or plural.

Here are the main distinctions:

* **This** modifies or refers to singular nouns that are near to the speaker.
* **That** modifies or refers to singular nouns that are far from the speaker.
* **These** modifies or refers to plural nouns that are near to the speaker.
* **Those** modifies or refers to plural nouns that are far from the speaker.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Demonstratives** | **Singular** | **Plural** | **Near** | **Far** |
| **This** | true | - | true | - |
| **That** | true | - | - | true |
| **These** | - | true | true | - |
| **Those** | - | true | - | true |

**Practice:**

#### Complete with the right words (*that, those, this*or *these*).

1. Waiter, I'm sorry to say it but ……………. cake you have just served me is awful.
2. I met him two five hours ago ………… morning.
3. Look at ………… kids playning in the garden over there; they're so cute.
4. Take one of ………..files from that table.
5. He was sitting on …………. rocking chair he had bought from the flea market.
6. Many parents complain about their children ……….. days.
7. Are you leaving ……….. weekend?
8. The jeans you have bought today are better than ………….. you bought last month.
9. We used to do it differently in …………. days
10. You know the books I am carrying are just fantastic. I think ………….. books will keep me company during this summer holiday.