

this, that, these, those

English Grammar · A1

this and that

Pointing words

this	that	these	those
near · one	far · one	near · many	far · many
<i>this pen</i>	<i>that car</i>	<i>these books</i>	<i>those people</i>

Pointing words: reference card grid

Demonstratives point out “which one.” Use **this** and **that** for singular:

- **this**(this): Close to the speaker.
- **that**(that): Far from the speaker.

This is my phone.

This is my phone. (Close)

That is your car.

That is your car. (Far)

these and those

Use **these** and **those** for plural:

- **these**(these): Close. **those**(those): Far.

These are my books.

These are my books.

Those are her friends.

Those are her friends.

Contrastive Memory:

- Near → this (singular) / these (plural).
- Far → that (singular) / those (plural).

Note: These / those are followed by **plural nouns**: these books, not ~~these book~~.

Common Errors

- × ~~these book~~ → ✓ these books — Plural nouns must follow these / those.
- × ~~This books are mine.~~ → ✓ **These** books are mine. — If the noun is plural, the demonstrative must also be plural.
- × When introducing yourself on the phone, say ~~I am Tom.~~ → ✓ **This is** Tom. — In English, introduce yourself on the phone using this is.
- Remember pairs: Near this / these are often used with **here**; far that / those are often used with **there**.