

POSSESSIVE

AND

DEMONSTRATIVES

II.

We can use *one* or *ones* instead of the noun.

What about this one?

These ones are nice.

- B** The basic meanings of 'near the speaker' and 'further away from the speaker' apply to both place and time.

	Place	Time
Near:	<i>this book (here)</i> <i>these papers (here)</i>	<i>at this moment (= now)</i> <i>these days (= now)</i>
Further away:	<i>that shop (there)</i> <i>those people (there)</i>	<i>at that time (= then)</i> <i>in those days (= then)</i>

When we are in a place or situation or at an event, we use *this* (not *that*) to refer to it.

This town has absolutely no night life.

How long is this weather going to last?

This is a great party, isn't it?

We can use *that/those* with something already seen or talked about but no longer present in the situation.

That dress Tanya was wearing looked very smart.

Those things I bought in the market were really cheap.

This usage is rather informal.

We use *this* when we are talking about something that is about to happen.

I'm going to enjoy this meal.

We use *that* for something that is over.

That was delicious.

We use *this* or *these* for the present time.

My mother is staying with us this week.

Things are different these days.

We use *that* or *those* for the past.

I remember that terrible storm. My mother was staying with us that week.

Things were different in those days. We didn't even have computers then.

NOTE

In informal English, *this* (instead of *a/an*) can introduce the topic of a story or joke.

This girl knocked on our door one day and ...

The scene is more immediate, as if we can see the girl in front of us.

- C** Look at these examples.

This is a great party, isn't it? I'm really enjoying it.

These shoes are wet. I left them outside in the rain.

When we mention something a second time, we use *it* or *they/them*. We do not usually use a demonstrative again.

- D** We can use a demonstrative with words for people.

that waiter (over there) these people (in here)

We can also use the pronouns *this* and *that* when we identify someone.

Mum, this is my friend Leanne. ~ Hello, Leanne.

That was Simon at the door. ~ Oh? What did he want?

On the phone we use *this* when we identify ourselves.

Hello. This is Steve. Is Claire there, please?

We usually use *that* when we ask who the other person is.

Is that you, Mark?

Who is that? / Who is this? (US: Who is this?)

But we do not use these expressions when speaking face to face.

NOTE

We sometimes leave out *people* after *those*.

Those (people) who ordered lunch should go to the dining-room.

- E** We can use *that* to refer to a statement or idea mentioned before.

I haven't got an appointment. ~ Oh, that doesn't matter.

Here *that* means 'the fact that I haven't got an appointment'.

Here are two more examples from real conversations.

The rooms are so big. That's why it's cold.

Well, if you haven't got television, you can't watch it. ~ That's true.

Sometimes we can use *this*, although *that* is more usual.

I simply haven't got the money. This is / That's the problem.

We use *this* and *that* in a number of idiomatic statements to express agreement or to say that someone has made a relevant point.

That's right. That's the thing. That's (just) it. This is it.

In these expressions we stress the word at the end (*right, thing, it*).

When we refer forward to what we are going to say, we use *this*.

What I'd like to say is this. The government has done a great deal to ...

- F** We can use *that* or *those* in this pattern.

She recognized the handwriting as that of her husband.

(= the handwriting of her husband/her husband's handwriting)

The best advice I've ever had is that which my old teacher gave me.

(= the advice which my old teacher gave me)

Some leaves are poisonous, especially those of evergreen shrubs.

(= the leaves of evergreen shrubs)

There's a big difference between studies which are scientific and those

which are not.

(= studies which are not)

This use of *that* and *those* is rather formal.