



This / that / these / those

We use 'this / that / these / those' to show which things or people we mean.

We generally use '**this / that**' to talk about one thing or person and '**these / those**' to talk about more than one thing or person.

- **This** car.
- **These** cars.
- **That** boy.
- **Those** boys.

We can use 'this / that / these / those' before a noun, or by themselves. Here are some examples without nouns.

- I'd like **this**, please.
- **That** is beautiful!
- Could I try **these** on?
- She wants **those**.

When we use this / that / these / those by themselves, they usually only talk about things, not people.

- This child is hungry. (NOT: ~~This is hungry.~~)

We usually use 'this / these' to talk about things or people that are close to us and 'that / those' to talk about things or people that are further away from us.

- **This** book (in my hand) is really good, but **that** book (on the table) is boring.

'This / these' have a similar idea to 'here' and 'that / those' have a similar idea to 'there'.



As well as things that are near to us and far away from us in space, we can also use 'this / that / these / those' to talk about things that are near to us and far away from us in time.

We usually use 'this / these' for things in the *present* and 'that / those' for things in the *past*.

- I really like **this film** (that we're watching now).
- I hated **that film** (that we watched last week).

We can also use 'this' and 'that' more generally, to talk about a whole experience or a whole discussion. We often use 'that' when the other person has said something.

- **That's** a really good idea. (The things that you have explained.)
- **This is** so amazing (I mean the whole experience of today).

We can use 'this' and 'that' by themselves exceptionally to talk about people when we say who the person is. This happens when we introduce people and on the telephone.

When we're on the telephone, in UK English, we use 'this' to say who we are and 'that' to talk about the other person.

- **This** is Julia. (Julia is speaking.)
- Who is **that**?

(If we use a pronoun like 'me', we use 'it' not this: It's me. NOT: ~~this is me~~.)

We can also use 'this' to introduce people to each other.

- Amanda, **this** is John.
- **This** is my friend Lukas.