

What Are Demonstrative Pronouns?

The use of **Demonstrative pronouns**, also referred to as *determiners*, depends upon number (singular or plural) and the distance (physically or related to time) the object has in relation to the speaker. Study the chart below which demonstrates demonstrative pronoun use.

	Near	Far
Singular	This	That
Plural	These	Those

Think of demonstrative pronoun this way. If you can touch the object or it is very close to you, then you would use *this* for the singular use and *these* for the plural use.

Examples:

This book has great character descriptions.

Usage shows that the book (singular) is very near the person speaking.

These library books are overdue.

Usage shows the books (plural) are near the person speaking.

If you must point away from yourself to refer to the object or it relates to time, then you would use *that* for the singular use and *those* for the plural use.

Examples:

That was the best movie ever!

Usage shows the movie (singular) has a time relationship to the speaker.

Those floor tiles look extremely dirty.

Usage shows the tiles (plural) have a distance relationship to the speaker.



Morgan Uceny in Olympic Fall, August 2012—wikimedia.org

Remembering that demonstrative pronouns are used to show a relationship between the speaker or writer and surrounding objects and time, pretend you are one of the people in this image and practice using these pronouns.