

Table of Contents

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

3

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Demonstratives (abbreviated dem) are words, [such](#) as this and that, used to indicate which entities are being referred to and to distinguish those entities from others. They are typically deictic; their meaning depending on a particular frame of reference and cannot [be](#) understood without context. Demonstratives are often used in spatial deixis (where the speaker or sometimes the listener are to provide context), but also in intra-discourse reference (including abstract concepts) or anaphora, where the meaning is dependent on something other than the relative physical location of the speaker, for example whether something is currently being said or was said earlier.

Demonstrative constructions include demonstrative [adjectives](#) or demonstrative determiners, which qualify [nouns](#) (as in Put that coat on); and demonstrative [pronouns](#), which stand independently (as in Put that on). The demonstratives in English are this, that, these, those, and the archaic yon and yonder, along with this one or that one as substitutes for the [pronoun](#) use of this or that.

Distal and proximal demonstratives Many languages, [such](#) as English and Chinese, make a two-way distinction between demonstratives. Typically, one set of demonstratives is proximal, indicating objects close to the speaker (English this), and the other series is distal, indicating objects further removed from the speaker (English that).

Other languages, like Nandi, Hawaiian, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Armenian, Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, Georgian, Basque, Korean, Japanese, Old English and Sri Lankan Tamil make a three-way distinction. Typically there is a distinction between proximal or first [person](#) (objects near to the speaker), medial or second [person](#) (objects near to the addressee), and distal or third [person](#) (objects far from both).

Typically, one set of demonstratives is proximal, indicating objects close to the speaker (English this), and the other series is distal, indicating objects further removed from the speaker (English that).

such	
that	
these	
this	
those	

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