

DEMONSTRATIVES (8)

Demonstratives for Timing and Feelings (02)

In context

3 min

How can a demonstrative express timing and feelings?



Back in *those* days, people used rotary phones.



Call me *this* afternoon.

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¹ Lady picture from Michal Barcol / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Demonstratives Used to Express Timing and Feelings (LOC-GR8-02-E)

12 min

The distance or proximity expressed by demonstratives is not always in space. It can be in time:

Demonstrative	Timing	Examples
this (singular)	present	<i>This</i> dinner is delicious, I am savoring it.
	recent past	I played ping-pong <i>this</i> afternoon.
	near future	We will go out for dinner <i>this</i> evening.
that (singular)	distant past	I still remember <i>that</i> day in 1995.
	distant future	One day it will happen, and I want to be there <i>that</i> day.
these (plural)	present	<i>These</i> days, young people wear jeans.
	recent past	I stayed home <i>these</i> past few days.
	near future	<i>These</i> coming weeks are going to be challenging.
those (plural)	distant past	<i>Those</i> were great times.
	distant future	I am looking forward to <i>those</i> moments.

The distance or proximity expressed by demonstratives can also be related to feelings. 'this' and 'these' show proximity (positive feelings, like, approval...). 'that' and 'those' show distance, often with a negative connotation (dislike, disapproval...).

Examples:

Look at *this* cute little boy.

I didn't like *that* stupid movie.

I agree with *these* excellent ideas.

I do not trust *those* guys.

Writing Exercise

5 min

Match the demonstratives on the left to the situations on the right.

1. this afternoon	a. plural, like
2. that horrible woman	b. singular, in a long time
3. these days	c. singular, soon
4. those bad actors	d. singular, like
5. these polite children	e. singular, dislike
6. that week	f. plural, dislike
7. those holidays	g. plural, now
8. this nice lady	h. plural, a long time ago

Writing Exercise

5 min

Choose the correct demonstrative.

1. I don't understand how you can listen to _____ horrible music. (this/that)
2. I was busy today; _____ morning, I went to 5 stores. (this/that)
3. _____ was the day I made the decision. (this/that)
4. This picture was taken last year. Do you remember _____ day?
(this/that)
5. You should make an appointment soon, I suggest one of _____ two days.
(these/those)
6. What kind of person would say _____ awful things? (these/those)
7. What did you think about _____ movie you saw last week? (this/that)
8. _____ is a wonderful vacation, I am having a great time. (this/that)
9. We went to Australia last year, _____ was the vacation of a lifetime!
(this/that)
10. I will never speak to _____ people again. (these/those)

Reading Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

Read these sentences to your teacher. Then, change the words in *italic* to use a demonstrative.

Example: I will see you *in the evening*. → I will see you *this evening*.

1. She will come in three weeks on the Friday and stay for *the weekend*.
2. *Here* is the file I need.
3. Can you remember *the* rabbit we saw three days ago?
4. I really don't like *the* horror movies you watch.
5. *The* people are so nice.

Speaking Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

Listen to your teacher's questions. First, think about what demonstrative you can use in your answer. Second, answer the question using this demonstrative.

Example: What will you do tonight?

→ I can use 'this' in 'this evening', because it is singular and a near future.

→ *This evening*, I will watch a movie.

1. At what time did you get up today?
2. What kind of music do you dislike? Why?
3. Do you remember your first day at work? How did you feel?
4. Smart phones are very popular, what do you think about them?
5. Do you miss those days when you were a teenager?

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

1. The distance or proximity expressed by demonstratives is always in space.
true false
2. The distance or proximity expressed by demonstratives can relate to time or feelings.
true false
3. 'this' can express a distant past.
true false
4. 'that' can express we don't like something.
true false

Match the beginning of a sentence on the left to its end the right.

1. She really hates	a. that day in 1996.
2. I used to travel a lot	b. these days.
3. I still remember	c. this teacher.
4. Children spend hours playing video games	d. back in those days.

Choose the correct demonstrative.

1. What is _____ horrible smell? (this / that)
2. _____ are the best holidays ever! (these / those)
3. _____ were the worst holidays ever! (these / those)
4. Who is _____? What a rude man! (this / that)
5. I am going to marry _____ wonderful man. (this / that)
6. I never forgot _____ strange summer camps. (these / those)
7. I am having so much fun _____ weekend. (this / that)
8. _____ incredible people saved my life. (these / those)