



Remember to watch the video on our website first!
Then read the conversation between Sophie and Preeti, a student she met in India. Sophie's helping Preeti understand how to use *this*, *that*, *these* and *those*.



**Grammar
Snacks**

We use *this*, *that*, *these* and *those* to explain what we are talking about. We sometimes use them with nouns and we sometimes use them on their own.

We use *this* (singular) and *these* (plural) to talk about things close to us, and *that* (singular) and *those* (plural) to talk about things at some distance away from us.

What about **this** shirt for Oliver?
No, hold on, what about **that** one over there?



Sophie



Preeti

So *this* is the idea of *here* and *that* is the idea of *there*?

Yes, exactly.

Wow, **that** market looks amazing. (= **there**. I'm not in the market, it's at some distance away from me)
This market is amazing. (= **here**. I'm in the market)



What about time? How does time affect *this* or *that*?

A good question. We use *that* to show distance in time as well as distance in space.

This is a good film. (we're watching it now)
That was a good film. (we saw it at some time in the past)



Are *this/these* and *that/those* always used with nouns?

No, we can use them as *pronouns*, without nouns, when it's obvious what they refer to.

What do you think about **these** for your Uncle Bob? (pointing to trousers)
I've never seen Uncle Bob in trousers like **those**. (those trousers, but we don't need to repeat trousers)
Who was **that**?





So they are useful words in shops or cafes. If you don't know the word for something, you can just say, 'Can I see *that*?' or 'I'd like *those*, please' and point.

Yes, *they're* very useful words!



I think I've heard *this* and *that* refer to more general things too, not just specific things.

That's right. *This* and *that* can refer to what somebody has said or what has happened. This could be several things or ideas.

That's right. (*everything you said*)

This is work you know! (*all the things I'm doing*)

That was a great concert! (*something that has just happened*)



What about phone language? How do people use *this* and *that*?

When you explain who is talking you say, 'Hi, **this** is Dan.'
And to check who is speaking, you can say, 'Is **that** Jenny?'



Can I say 'This is me'?

No. If you're phoning someone you know very well, you'd say 'It's me.'



What about introducing people to each other? Do I use *this* or *that*?

When you're introducing one person to another person, you say, 'Juliette, **this** is Marc'.



OK, thanks. *That's* all for now!

Watch the video on our website!

