



Demonstrative Pronouns:

Demonstrative Pronouns vs Determiners: This, That, These, Those

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- [Reading a maths problem] ____ is really hard to understand. Can you help me?
a) These
b) This
c) That
d) Those
- I'm busy ____ week, but I'm free next week.
a) that
b) the
c) a
d) this
- ____ were the happiest days of my life.
a) These
b) This
c) Those
d) That
- [Standing at the sink] Who left ____ dirty plates here? They aren't mine.
a) this
b) that
c) those
d) these
- I bought a new laptop yesterday. ____ was quite expensive.
a) It
b) They
c) This
d) These
- ____ dress I'm wearing is a gift from my mother.
a) That
b) These
c) Those
d) This
- We moved to London in 2010. In ____ days, we didn't have much money.
a) these
b) this
c) those
d) that
- A: Which cake do you want? B: I'll take ____, please. (pointing at a cake nearby)
a) that one
b) this one
c) it
d) these
- ____ children next to me are my nieces.
a) Those
b) That
c) These
d) This
- Do you remember ____ restaurant where we had dinner last year?
a) this
b) these
c) those
d) that



Answers

1. b) This
2. d) this
3. c) Those
4. d) these
5. a) It
6. d) This
7. c) those
8. b) this one
9. c) These
10. d) that
11. b) That
12. c) This
13. a) That
14. c) These
15. b) It
16. b) this
17. a) These
18. b) That
19. d) those
20. d) This



Explanations

1. “This” (b)

The speaker is looking at the maths problem right now (near — it is in front of them), and it is singular, so we use 'this' as a pronoun. No noun follows 'this' here — it stands alone.

2. “this” (d)

'This week' means the current week — the one we are in now. We use 'this' for the present time period. 'That week' would refer to a week in the past or future, not the current one.

3. “Those” (c)

The speaker is looking back at days in the past (far in time), and 'days' is plural, so we use 'those'. The verb 'were' also confirms a plural subject.

4. “these” (d)

The speaker is standing at the sink ('here'), and 'plates' is plural, so 'these' is correct. The stage direction and 'here' confirm proximity.

5. “It” (a)

When we refer back to a specific noun already mentioned ('a new laptop'), we normally use the personal pronoun 'it', not a demonstrative. We use 'this/that' to point to or emphasise something, but for simple back-reference to a known object, 'it' is standard.

6. “This” (d)

'This' is used as a determiner before the noun 'dress'. The speaker is wearing it (near), and 'dress' is singular, so 'this' is correct.

7. “those” (c)

'Those days' refers to a time in the past (far in time), and 'days' is plural. We use 'those' as a determiner before the noun 'days' to refer to a distant past period.

8. “this one” (b)

The person is pointing at a cake close to them, and it is singular, so 'this one' is correct. 'This one' uses the demonstrative as a pronoun with 'one' replacing the noun.

9. “These” (c)

'Next to me' means the children are near the speaker, and 'children' is plural, so we use 'these' as a determiner before the noun.

10. “that” (d)

The restaurant visit was in the past ('last year'), so the speaker uses 'that' (far in time) as a determiner before 'restaurant'. It is singular.

11. “That” (b)

'That' refers back to what just happened (the other person getting two turns). We use 'that' as a pronoun to comment on a past situation. 'Those' and 'these' are plural and don't match a singular situation.

12. “This” (c)

The speaker says 'I'm so tired!' — they are speaking about today. 'This morning' means the morning of the current day. If it were a past day, we would say 'that morning'.

13. “That” (a)

'That' is used as a pronoun to refer back to the whole situation of hearing about her problems. When referring back to a fact or situation (not a specific countable noun), we often use 'that'. 'This' would be used to introduce something new, not to look back.

14. “These” (c)

'Here' means the tomatoes are near the speaker, and 'tomatoes' is plural, so we use 'these' as a determiner. The contrast with 'over there' reinforces the near/far distinction.

15. “It” (b)

When we continue talking about a specific noun already established ('my cat'), we use the personal pronoun 'it', not a demonstrative. Demonstratives are for pointing or emphasising.

16. “this” (b)

'This report' suggests the report is current and present (the speaker has it or is working on it now). 'This' works as a determiner before the singular noun 'report'.

17. “These” (a)

The speaker is presenting the rules right now (near in discourse), and 'rules' is plural, so we use 'these' as a pronoun. The verb 'are' confirms a plural subject.

18. “That” (b)

The holiday is in the past (far in time), and the speaker is commenting on the whole experience (singular), so 'that' is used as a pronoun to refer back to the experience.

19. “those” (d)

The scissors are 'next to you' — near the listener but far from the speaker. 'Scissors' is always plural in English, so we use 'those'.

20. “This” (d)

'This year' means the current year. We use 'this' for the present time period. 'That year' would refer to a different year, not the current one.