

## English A1 · this, that, these, those

Beginner English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

## Halfway done before you begin

Chinese has and ; English has this and that. The only new machinery is the plural pair.

## Near and far, one thing

| Distance              | Word | Example             |
|-----------------------|------|---------------------|
| near — in your hand   | this | This is my pen.     |
| far — across the room | that | That is our school. |

### Use the evidence

Use them before a noun (this book) or alone as the subject (This is heavy).

## On the phone, you are this

### The phone flip

"Hi, this is Lin." — I am Lin.

"Who is that?" — Who is calling?

## Your turn: which pointer

### Your turn

You are holding your ruler. Which sentence?

- ☐ A. That is my ruler.
- ☐ B. This is my ruler.
- ☐ C. These is my ruler.
- ☐ D. It is my ruler, so no pointing word.

## Plurals: the vowel stretches

| Distance | Singular | Plural |
|----------|----------|--------|
| near     | this     | these  |
| far      | that     | those  |

Use the evidence

— these books. — those.

## Your turn: match the plural

### Your turn

\_\_\_\_\_ are mountains, far away on the horizon.

- A. This
- B. These
- C. That
- D. Those

## This pulls time close, that pushes it away

this — time you are inside

this week, this morning, this year

This is a great party — said inside the party.

that — time you look back at

that day, that summer, that night

That was a great party — the party is over.

## Answer with it, not with this

- 1 **The question** What is this?
- 2 **The instinct** This is a stapler — understandable, but it sounds like a game show.
- 3 **The natural answer** It is a stapler.

### Decision

English points once with this, then switches to it.

## Your turn: the plural police

### Your turn

Which sentence is correct?

- A. These is my books.
- B. These are my books.
- C. This are my books.
- D. Those is my books.

## Say it aloud

Touch something near: This is my desk. These are my books.



Point far: That is the door. Those are the windows.



Add honesty: This is my phone, and these are my excuses.



Call a classmate and open with: Hi, this is ...

## Check yourself

- In your hand: this; across the room: that.
- Many and far: those are mountains; the verb are is a witness.
- What is this? — It is a stapler: point once, then switch to it.
- On the phone: Hi, this is Lin — never I am Lin.