

Grammar

We can use different words to refer to nouns. We use some of them before a noun to give more information about it. Some of the words can replace the noun. We use these words when we do not want to repeat the noun.

1 Demonstratives: *this, that, these, those*

Demonstratives are adjectives or pronouns that show when or where something is in relation to the speaker.

Demonstratives as adjectives

We use *this* and *these* for a recent time or to show a position that is close.

*The traffic was bad **this** afternoon.* (= today)

*We need to replace **these** monitors.* (= computers that are near to the speaker)

We use *that* and *those* for a distant time or to show a position that is away from the speaker.

*I had fever **that** day.* (= a day in the past)

*I'll stop by your house to pick up **those** pots after work.* (= plants that are far from the speaker)

Demonstratives as pronouns

We also use *this / that / these / those* to replace a noun.

*You like strawberries, don't you? Try some of **these**.*

We use *this / that* to refer to another part of the sentence or to refer to a whole sentence.

*We are planning to extend the parking lot. **That** would mean we would have an extra 60 spaces.*
(that = extending the parking lot)

*Roi suggested that we all attend the conference and **that** sounded like a good idea to me.*
(that = we all attend the conference)

2 One /ones

One replaces singular countable nouns and *ones* replaces plural countable nouns.

*I need a marker. Do you have **one**?*

*I prefer the red folders to the blue **ones**.*

One or ones often follows the demonstrative (*this, that, etc.*).

*Here are the rulers we ordered. I'll leave **these ones** for you and take **this one** for myself.*

3 Some and any

We use *some or any* with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns to indicate quantity.

We use *some* in positive statements and in questions indicating a request or an offer.

*I need **some** fasteners.*

*Would you like **some** tea?*

We use *any* in most other questions and in affirmative statements with a number of options.

*Do we have **any** days off this week?*

*We can meet **any** day next month.*

We use *not* + *any* in negative statements.

*We **don't** have **any** ballpens.*

We can sometimes use *some* and *any* with the same meaning.

*Can I bring you **any** drinks? = Can I bring you **some** drinks?*