

6.4 Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns

Demonstrative adjectives Tutorial

ANTE TODO

In Spanish, as in English, demonstrative adjectives are words that “demonstrate” or “point out” nouns. Demonstrative adjectives precede the nouns they modify and, like other Spanish adjectives you have studied, agree with them in gender and number. Observe these examples and then study the chart below.

esta camisa
this shirt

ese vendedor
that salesman

aquellos zapatos
those shoes (over there)

Demonstrative adjectives

Singular		Plural		
MASCULINE	FEMININE	MASCULINE	FEMININE	
este	esta	estos	estas	<i>this; these</i>
ese	esa	esos	esas	<i>that; those</i>
aquel	aquella	aquellos	aquellas	<i>that; those (over there)</i>

- ▶ There are three sets of demonstrative adjectives. To determine which one to use, you must establish the relationship between the speaker and the noun(s) being pointed out.
- ▶ The demonstrative adjectives **este**, **esta**, **estos**, and **estas** are used to point out things that are close to the speaker and the listener.



*Me gustan
estos zapatos.*

- ▶ The demonstrative adjectives **ese**, **esa**, **esos**, and **esas** are used to point out things that are not close in space and time to the speaker. They may, however, be close to the listener.



*Prefiero
esos zapatos.*

- ▶ The demonstrative adjectives **aquel**, **aquella**, **aquellos**, and **aquellas** are used to point out things that are far away from the speaker and the listener.



Aquel auto es de mi hermana.

Demonstrative pronouns

- ▶ Demonstrative pronouns are identical to their corresponding demonstrative adjectives, with the exception that they traditionally carry an accent mark on the stressed vowel. The Real Academia no longer requires this accent, but it is still commonly used.

Demonstrative pronouns			
Singular		Plural	
MASCULINE	FEMININE	MASCULINE	FEMININE
éste	ésta	éstos	éstas
ése	ésa	ésos	ésas
aqué	aquélla	aquéllos	aquéllas

—¿Quieres comprar **este** suéter?
Do you want to buy this sweater?

—No, no quiero **éste**. Quiero **ése**.
No, I don't want this one. I want that one.

—¿Vas a leer **estas** revistas?
Are you going to read these magazines?

—Sí, voy a leer **éstas**. También voy a leer **aquéllas**.
Yes, I'm going to read these. I'll also read those (over there).

- ▶ **¡Atención!** Like demonstrative adjectives, demonstrative pronouns agree in gender and number with the corresponding noun.

Este libro es de Pablito.

Éstos son de Juana.

- ▶ There are three neuter demonstrative pronouns: **esto**, **eso**, and **aquello**. These forms refer to unidentified or unspecified things, situations, ideas, and concepts. They do not change in gender or number and never carry an accent mark.

—¿Qué es **esto**?
What's this?

—**Eso** es interesante.
That's interesting.

—**Aquello** es bonito.
That's pretty.

recursos

WB pp. 66–68

LM p. 36

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¡INTÉNTALO!

Provide the correct form of the demonstrative adjective for these nouns.

- la falda / este esta falda
- los estudiantes / este _____
- los países / aquel _____
- la ventana / ese _____
- los periodistas / ese _____
- el chico / aquel _____
- las sandalias / este _____
- las chicas / aquel _____