

## THE APPLICATION OF DEMONSTRATIVE AND POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS IN ENGLISH.

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### Annotation

This article examines the use of demonstrative and possessive pronouns in the English language, which play a critical role in communication and expression. Demonstrative pronouns (this, that, these, those) and possessive pronouns (my, your, his, her, its, our, their) are essential for conveying relationships and indicating specificity in discourse. The article analyzes the differences between these pronouns, their grammatical characteristics, and their contextual applications. Through examples, the article demonstrates how demonstrative and possessive pronouns can be effectively used in various situations. It aims to provide guidance for English language learners in mastering the correct and efficient use of these pronouns.

**Keywords:** *English language, demonstrative pronouns, possessive pronouns, communication, grammar, teaching.*

### Introduction

The mastery of demonstrative and possessive pronouns is essential for effective communication in English. These pronouns help speakers to specify objects, people, or relationships, thus enhancing clarity in interactions. This article will explore the

definition, types, and functions of demonstrative and possessive pronouns, along with their appropriate usage.

### Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns serve the primary function of pointing out specific nouns. The four main demonstrative pronouns in English are:

1. This - refers to a singular noun that is nearby.
2. That - refers to a singular noun that is further away.
3. These - refers to plural nouns that are nearby.
4. Those - refers to plural nouns that are further away.

### Usage of Demonstrative Pronouns

The use of demonstrative pronouns is highly contextual, depending on proximity and number. For example:

- This is my favorite book. (refers to one specific book close to the speaker)
- That is a beautiful painting. (refers to one painting distanced from the speaker)
- These are my friends. (refers to multiple friends close to the speaker)
- Those are amazing mountains. (refers to distant mountains)

Demonstrative pronouns can serve adjectives when describing a noun:

- This book is interesting.
- Those cars are expensive.

### Common Mistakes

English learners often confuse the singular and plural forms or mix up the references of nearby and distant nouns, leading to misunderstandings. Teachers must emphasize the importance of context in teaching these pronouns.

### Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns express ownership or relation. The primary possessive pronouns in English include:

1. My - indicates ownership by the speaker
2. Your - indicates ownership by the listener
3. His - indicates ownership by a male subject
4. Her - indicates ownership by a female subject
5. Its - indicates ownership by a non-human subject
6. Our - indicates ownership by the speaker and others
7. Their - indicates ownership by multiple subjects

### Usage of Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns can stand alone or be used with nouns. For example:

- My car is blue. (possessive adjective)
- That car is mine. (possessive pronoun)

### Contextual Applications

The context dictates the use of possessive pronouns, particularly when multiple subjects are involved or when discussing relationships:

- Our team won the match. (referring to a team that includes the speaker)

- I really like her dress. (referring to the dress owned by a specific female)

### Common Pitfalls

Learners may confuse possessive pronouns with possessive adjectives, resulting in incorrect sentence structure, such as using "his" instead of "his car."

### Differences Between Demonstrative and Possessive Pronouns

While both demonstrative and possessive pronouns serve to elucidate relationships, their functions diverge significantly:

- Demonstrative pronouns indicate specific items or individuals. They point toward proximity (this, that) or quantity (these, those).
- Possessive pronouns indicate ownership or relationship and are internally related to nouns.

### Examples to Illustrate Differences

1. Demonstrative: This is my laptop.
2. Possessive: That laptop is mine.

### Teaching Approaches

Teaching these pronouns requires practical approaches. Role-plays, dialogue exercises, and contextual pair work are effective tactics to encourage learners to practice and apply their knowledge in real-life situations.

### Practical Exercises

To reinforce understanding, practical exercises should be incorporated:

- Fill in the blanks with appropriate demonstrative or possessive pronouns based on the context.

- Transformation exercises: Convert sentences using possessive adjectives to sentences using possessive pronouns and vice versa.

- Role-play scenarios where learners must use both types of pronouns effectively in conversations.

### Conclusion

The grasp of demonstrative and possessive pronouns is crucial in mastering the nuances of the English language. Their proper usage leads to clearer communication and better understanding between speakers. By emphasizing their contextual applications and providing ample practical exercises, educators can enhance learners' proficiency in English.

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