Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns

Demonstrative adjectives

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Masculine</strong></td>
<td><strong>Feminine</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>este</em></td>
<td><em>esta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>ese</em></td>
<td><em>esa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>aquel</em></td>
<td><em>aquella</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

**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.

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<td>aquél</td>
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—¿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.*

**INTENTALO!** Provide the correct form of the demonstrative adjective for these nouns.

1. la falda / este ____________ *esta falda*
2. los estudiantes / este ____________
3. los países / aquel ____________
4. la ventana / ese ____________
5. los periodistas / ese ____________
6. el chico / aquel ____________
7. las sandalias / este ____________
8. las chicas / aquel ____________