

When do you use **This**, **That**, **These**, and **Those**?



They look simple, but these four words follow a clear and elegant system. It's not about memorizing rules; **it's about understanding a simple map.**

# They are words that point.

In grammar, they're called **demonstrative pronouns**. Think of them as pointing words. They answer two basic questions about whatever you're pointing to:

1. **Where is it?** (Is it near or far?)
2. **How many are there?** (Is there one or many?)



# First, let's establish distance: Is it Near or Far?

The first rule is about physical space. Is the object close to you, or is it far away?



# For things close to you, use ● **This** and **These**.

When a person or thing is close to you—within reach or in your immediate surroundings—you use the words that start with “Th-”.



**This** book is interesting.

(The book is near you.)



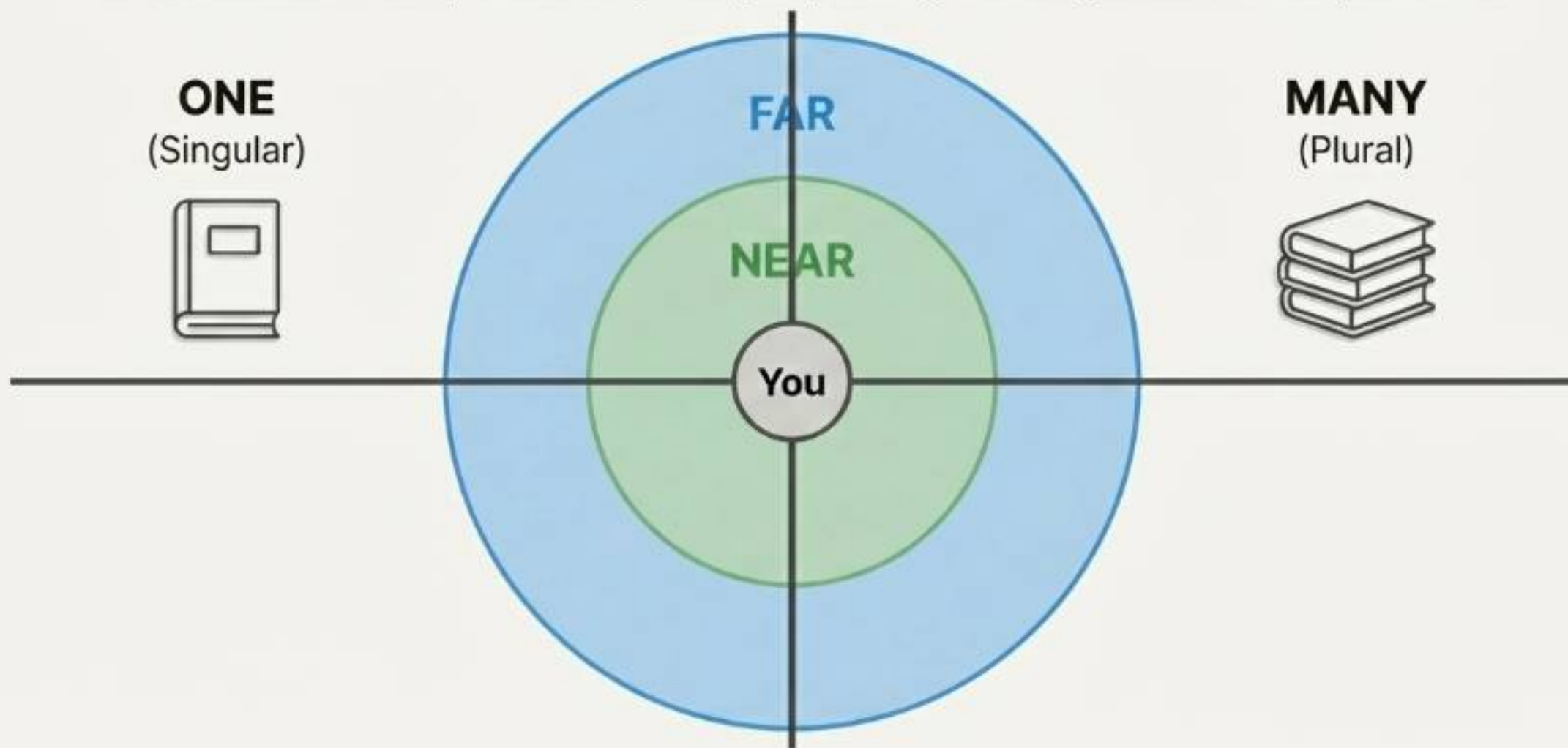
**These** cookies are fresh.

(You're holding or near the cookies.)



# Next, we add the number: Is there One or Many?

The second rule is simple counting. Are you pointing to a single item or multiple items?

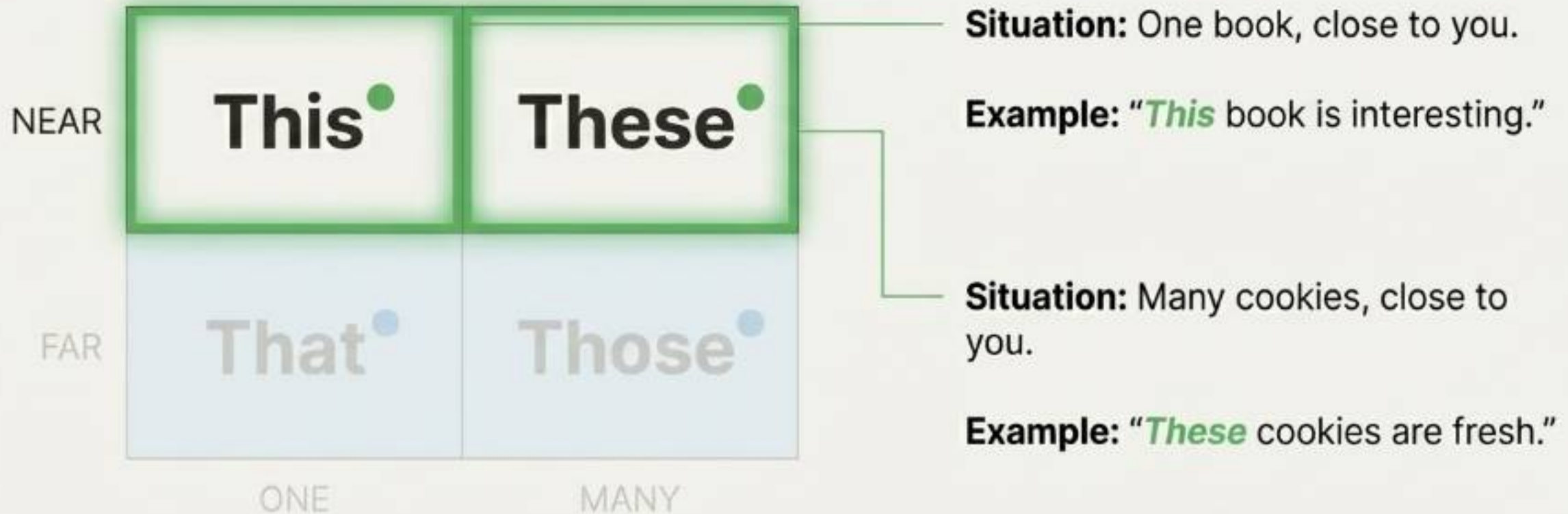


# Together, they create a simple map.

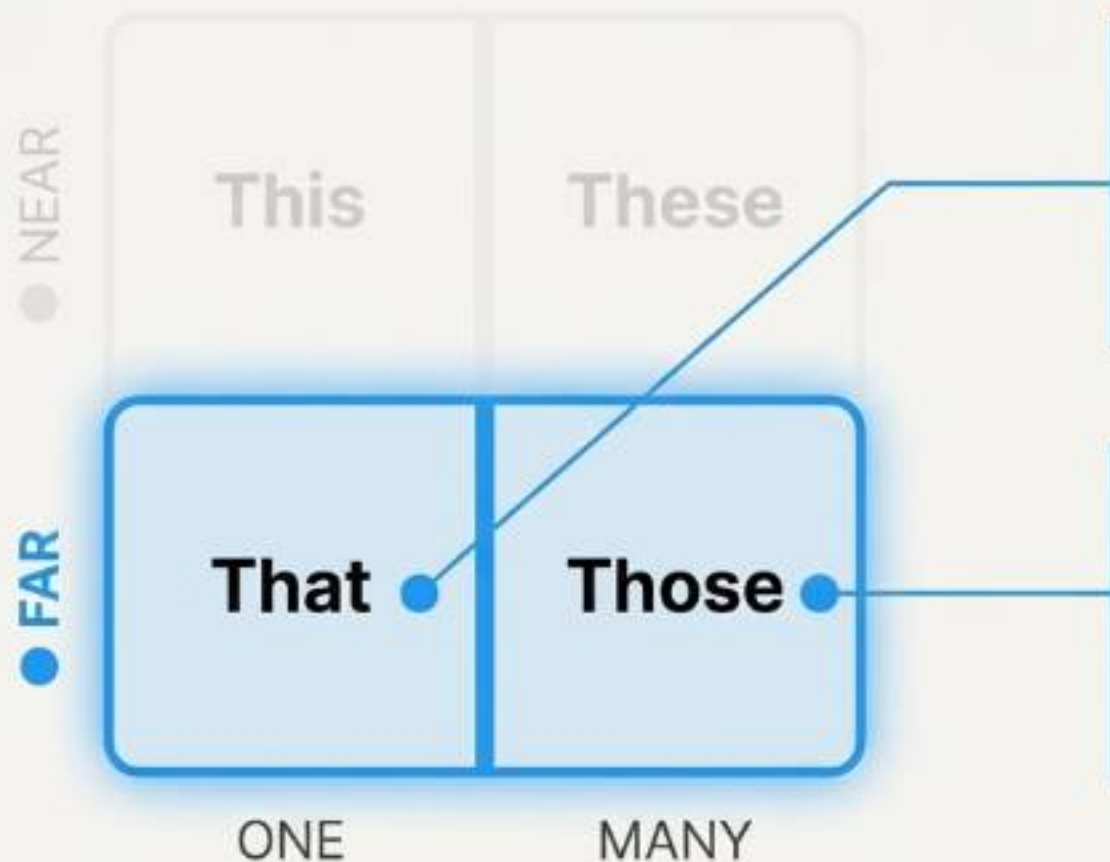
	ONE	MANY
● NEAR	<b>This</b> ●	<b>These</b> ●
● FAR	<b>That</b> ●	<b>Those</b> ●

This grid contains everything you need. Simply find the quadrant that matches your situation to pick the perfect word.

# Let's test the 'NEAR' half of the map.



# Now, let's test the 'FAR' half.



**Situation:** One car, far away from you.

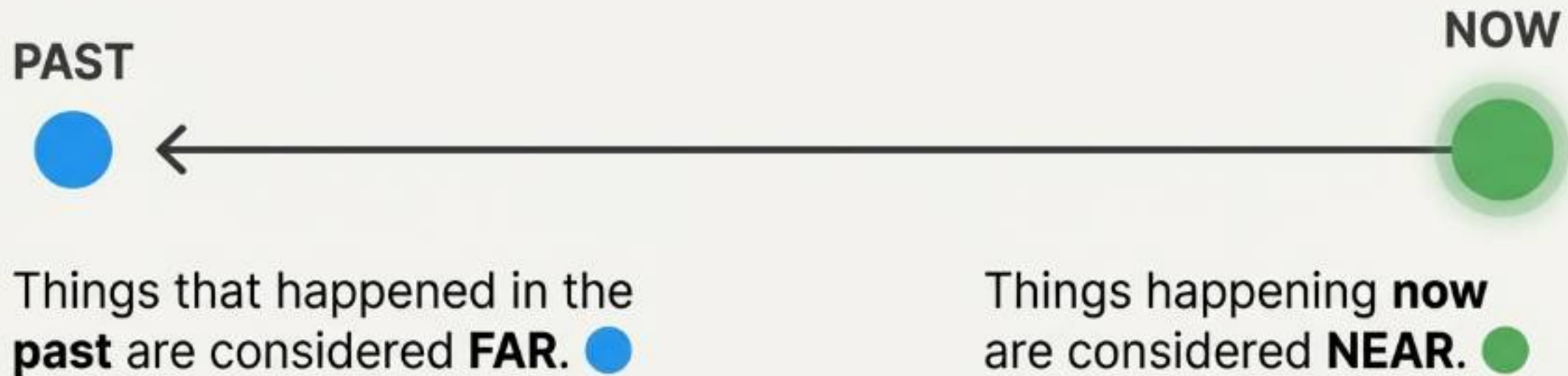
**Example:** "Look at *that* car down the street."

**Situation:** Many mountains, in the distance.

**Example:** "I love *those* mountains on the horizon."



But 'distance' isn't just about space.  
It's also about time.



# The map works for time, too.

Use **this/these** for the present moment.

Use **that/those** to point back to a memory or an event in the past.



I'm enjoying **this** moment.

(Happening now → NEAR)

# Pointing back to the past.

When you refer to something that has already happened, you are pointing to something 'far' away in time.

**Context:** You watched a great movie yesterday.

**Sentence:** '*That* was a great movie.'

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**Context:** You're remembering a fun vacation.

**Sentence:** '*Those* were fun times.'

# Connecting sentences through time.

We often use **that** and **those** to refer to something we just mentioned.

We went to a circus last week. **That** *was amazing*.



(Here, 'That' points back to the experience of the circus.)





We met some villagers **yesterday**. **Those** *were very kind*.




(Here, 'Those' points back to the villagers.)



# Your Complete Guide to Pointing Words.

	ONE	MANY
 <b>NEAR</b> (Space) / <b>NOW</b> (Time) 	<b>This</b>	<b>These</b>
 <b>FAR</b> (Space) / <b>PAST</b> (Time) 	<b>That</b>	<b>Those</b>

## Quick Tip:

**Close** or **Now** =  this / these

**Far** or **Past** =  that / those

# Putting it all together.

