

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

A 3D perspective view of the words "This", "That", "These", and "Those". The words are arranged diagonally from bottom-left to top-right. "This" and "Those" are in green, while "That" and "These" are in blue. The letters have a slight shadow, giving them a sense of depth.

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.



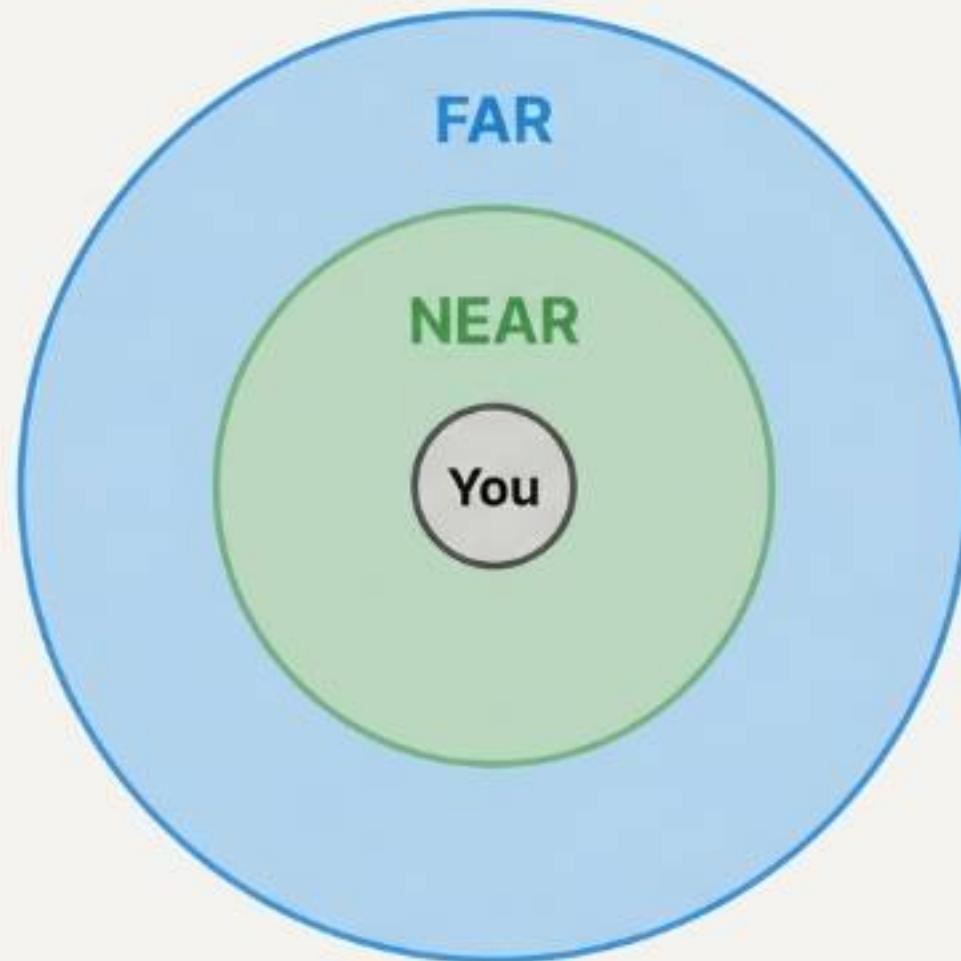
In grammar, they're called **demonstrative pronouns**. Think of them as pointing words. They answer two basic questions about whatever you're pointing to:

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?



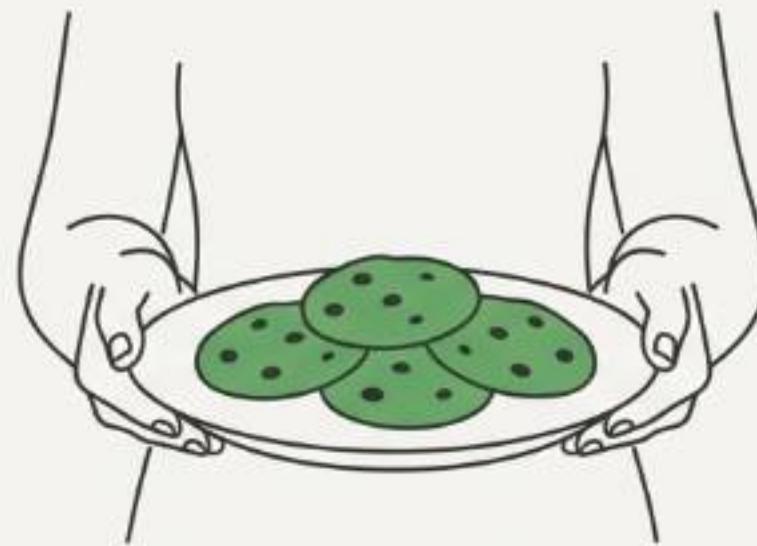
For things close to you, use ● This and These.

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.)

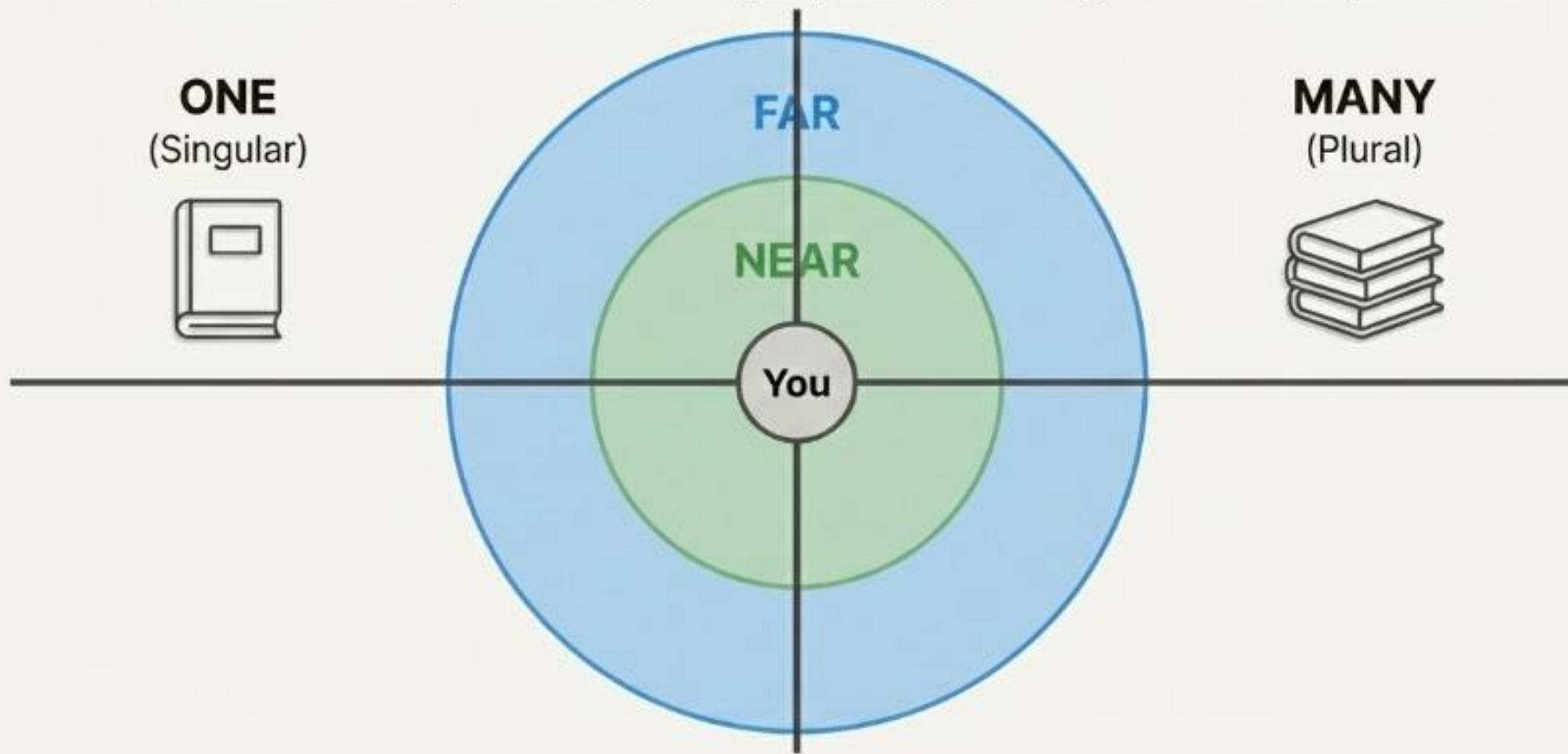


These cookies are fresh.

(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.



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.



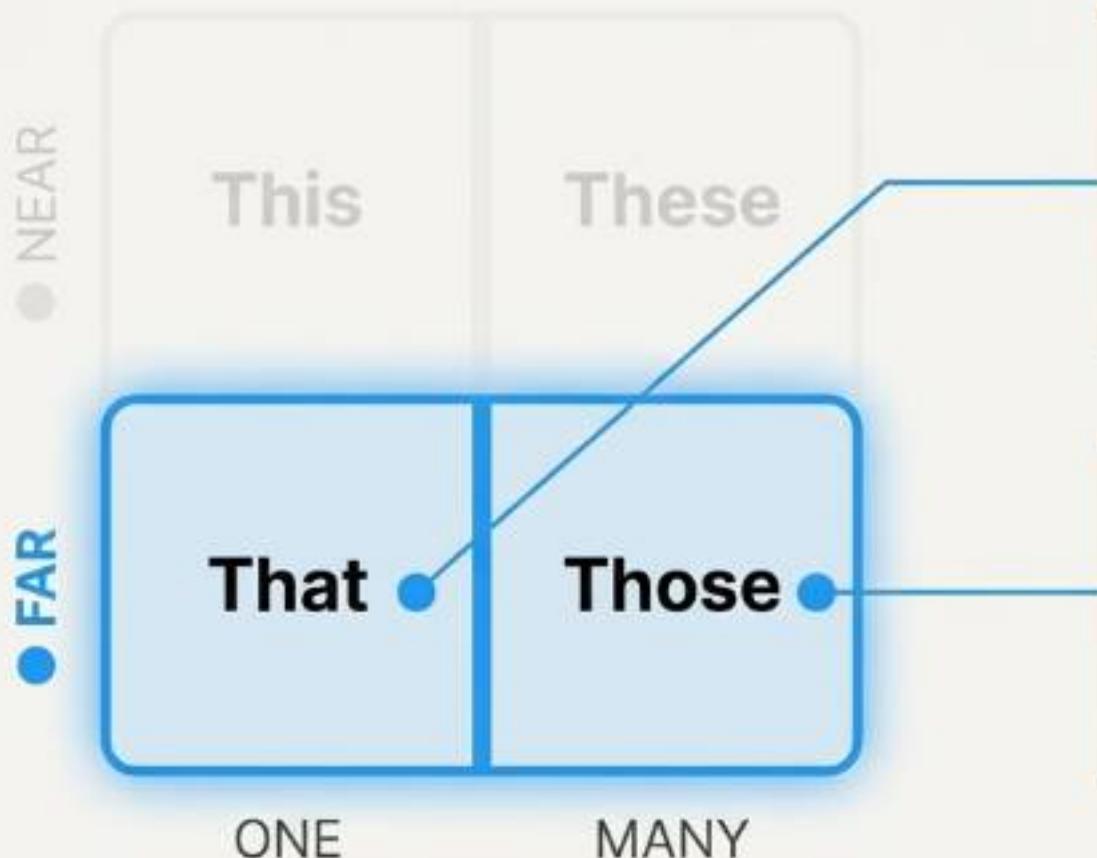
Situation: One book, close to you.

Example: "*This* book is interesting."

Situation: Many cookies, close to you.

Example: "*These* cookies are fresh."

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



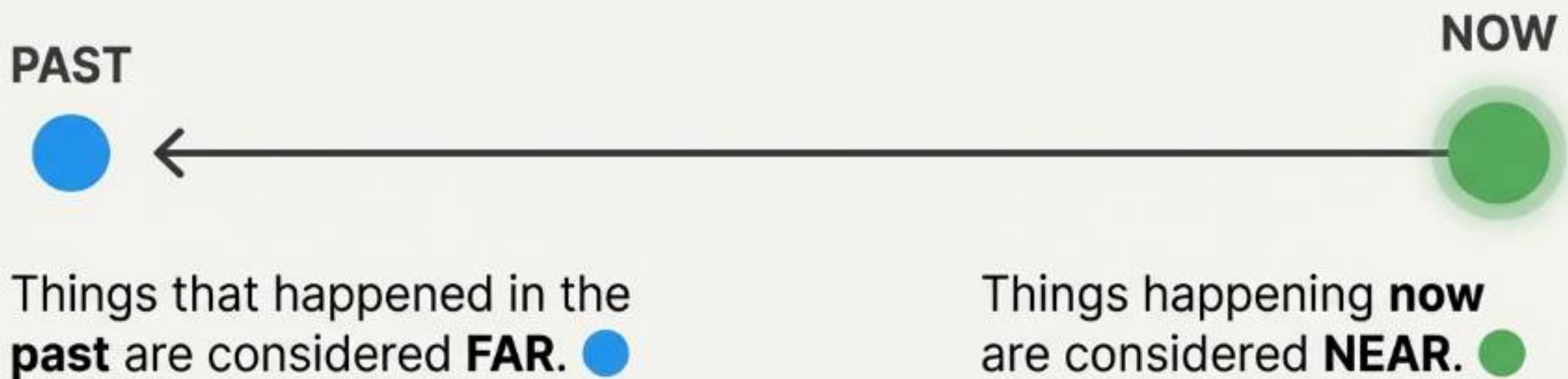
Situation: One car, far away from you.

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

Situation: Many mountains, in the distance.

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

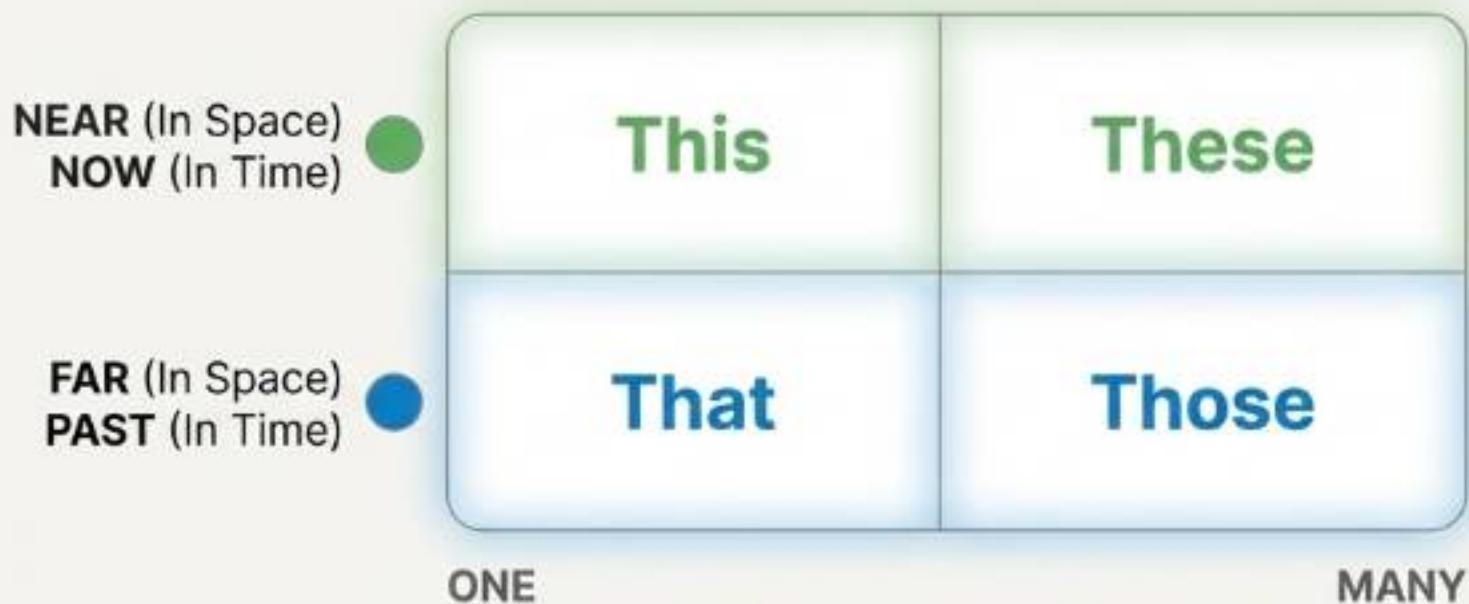
But 'distance' isn't just about space. It's also about time.



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.’

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
NEAR (Space) / NOW (Time)	This	These
FAR (Space) / PAST (Time)	That	Those

Quick Tip:

Close or Now =  this / these

Far or Past =  that / those

Putting it all together.

