GENERAL

this these that those worksheets

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Introduction

English learners often encounter a subtle yet essential group of words that shape the clarity of their sentences: **this** , **these**, **that**, and **those**. These pronouns and determiners serve as pointers, letting us reference objects, ideas, or people in a conversation or written text. Mastery of these words not only improves grammatical accuracy but also enhances overall communication skills. In this article, we'll dive deep into the differences between "this" and "those," explore how teachers can use targeted worksheets to reinforce understanding, and provide a wealth of ready made resources for students and educators alike.

Understanding the Four Pronouns

1. this – Singular, Near

"This" refers to a single item that is close to the speaker or writer, either physically or temporally. It is often used to introduce or emphasize a particular point.

Example: *This book I'm holding is my favorite.*

2. these – Plural, Near

When referencing multiple items that are nearby, "these" is the appropriate choice. It signals a group that is in close proximity.

Example: *These apples look ripe.*

3. that – Singular, Far

"That" points to a single item that is distant from the speaker. It can be used in both physical and conceptual contexts.

Example: *That mountain over there is the tallest in the range.*

4. those – Plural, Far

For groups of items that are far away, "those" is employed. It helps the listener or reader visualize a collective that is not immediately present.

Example: *Those cars parked outside are all electric.*

Why These Words Matter in Learning

Although they may seem trivial, the correct use of these pronouns is crucial for several reasons:

- Clarity – Choosing the right word eliminates ambiguity.
- Precision – It allows speakers to convey exact relationships.
- Confidence – Students who master these distinctions are more likely to express themselves fluently.
- Academic Success – Many standardized tests assess the proper use of demonstratives.

Teaching Strategies for this/these/that/those

1. Contextual Clues

Encourage students to pay attention to the physical or conceptual distance of the objects they refer to. Provide visual aids, such as pictures or real objects, to reinforce the idea of “near” versus “far.”

2. Comparative Exercises

Use pairwise comparisons to highlight differences. For example, ask students to write a sentence using “this” and then rewrite it using “that” to see how the meaning shifts.

3. Interactive Games

Games like “Find the Item” or “Near vs. Far” can make learning engaging. Students can move objects around and practice choosing the correct pronoun in real time.

4. Visual Mapping

Create charts that display the pronouns along with examples and usage rules. Visual mapping helps students remember the associations quickly.

Worksheet Design Principles

When crafting worksheets focused on “this these that those,” keep the following in mind:

1. Clear Instructions – Each activity should begin with a concise description of what the student needs to do.
2. Progressive Difficulty – Start with simple fill in the blank tasks and gradually move to sentence creation or paragraph writing.
3. Variety of Contexts – Include both physical objects and abstract ideas to cover a broad range of usage.
4. Immediate Feedback – Provide answer keys or interactive digital options so students can self check.
5. Engagement – Use relatable themes (e.g., school supplies, sports, technology) that resonate with the target age group.

Sample Worksheet Activities

Activity 1: Fill in the Blank

Choose the correct word from the list (**this**, **these**, **that**, **those**) to complete each sentence.

1. _____ pen is mine. (Hint: You are holding it)
2. _____ books on the shelf are overdue. (Hint: Many, far away)
3. _____ apple tastes sweet. (Hint: One, near)
4. _____ chairs in the classroom are broken. (Hint: Many, near)

Activity 2: Match the Pair

Draw a line from the pronoun to the correct image.

- “This” –
- “Those” –
- “That” –
- “These” –

Activity 3: Sentence Transformation

Rewrite the following sentence using the requested pronoun.

Original: *The dog over there is barking.*

Rewrite using **this** and **those**:

1. _____ dog over there is barking.
2. _____ dogs over there are barking.

Activity 4: Create a Short Story

Write a paragraph that includes at least one example of each pronoun. Encourage creativity and use of descriptive language.

Digital Resources for this/these/that/those Worksheets

Many educators prefer digital tools for flexibility and instant feedback. Below are some reputable platforms offering printable or interactive worksheets.

- Education.com – Extensive library of printable worksheets categorized by skill level.
- Khan Academy – Interactive practice exercises with immediate scoring.
- Teachers Pay Teachers – Marketplace for unique, teacher created worksheets (free and paid).
- Google Classroom – Allows teachers to upload worksheets and track student progress.
- Quizlet – Create flashcards and matching games to reinforce pronoun usage.

Integrating Worksheets into a Lesson Plan

A typical 45 minute lesson might look like this:

1. Warm up (5 mins) – Quick discussion on what students see in the classroom (e.g., “What do you see on the board?”) to activate prior knowledge.
2. Mini lecture (10 mins) – Explain the four pronouns with visual aids and examples.
3. Worksheet activity (15 mins) – Students complete Activity 1 and Activity 2 in pairs.
4. Peer review (5 mins) – Students swap worksheets and check each other’s answers.
5. Wrap up (10 mins) – Review key points, answer questions, and assign Activity 3 as homework.

Assessing Mastery

Assessment can be formative or summative. Use the following tools to gauge understanding:

- Quizzes – Include multiple choice, fill in the blank, and sentence completion questions.
- Oral Presentations – Students explain a concept using the pronouns correctly.
- Portfolio – Compile worksheets and reflective writing over the unit.
- Self Assessment – Provide checklists for students to evaluate their own use.

Common Mistakes and How to Correct Them

Even proficient speakers can slip. Here are typical errors and tips for avoidance:

- Using “this” for plural items – Remind students that “this” is singular.
- Choosing “those” for items close by – Reinforce the distance rule.
- Confusing “that” with “those” when referring to abstract ideas – Use concrete examples in teaching.
- Overusing demonstratives – Encourage variety by integrating synonyms like “these” and “those” in descriptive writing.

Beyond the Classroom: Real World Applications

Mastery of demonstratives extends beyond academic settings. Consider these everyday scenarios:

- Shopping – “This shirt fits me better than that one.”
- Travel – “These tickets will get us to the airport.”
- Technology – “Those apps are useful for learning languages.”
- Social Media – “This meme is trending right now.”

Conclusion

Understanding and correctly applying **this**, **these**, **that**, and **those**is a foundational skill that enhances both written and spoken English. Through thoughtful worksheet design, engaging activities, and consistent practice, teachers can help students internalize these pronouns and use them confidently in any context. Whether you are a classroom educator, a homeschooling parent, or a self learner, the resources and strategies outlined above provide a comprehensive roadmap for mastering these essential pointers. Keep practicing, keep exploring, and watch your communication skills grow sharper with every “this” and “those” you use.

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