

# Los Demostrativos

## This · That · Those

Reference · Key Rules · Varied Practice | Level A2

### ◆ SECTION 1 — THE DEMONSTRATIVE SYSTEM

#### → The Big Picture: Think of Distance in 3 Zones

In English you only have THIS and THAT. Spanish has three levels — and they match the distance adverbs:



**AQUÍ**(here)

**AHÍ**(there)

**ALLÍ**(over there)

#### The Complete Table

| Form         | ESTE · AQUÍ                   | ESE · AHÍ                    | AQUEL · ALLÍ                                |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Masc. Sing.  | <b>este</b> <i>this (m)</i>   | <b>ese</b> <i>that (m)</i>   | <b>aquel</b> <i>that over there (m)</i>     |
| Fem. Sing.   | <b>esta</b> <i>this (f)</i>   | <b>esa</b> <i>that (f)</i>   | <b>aquella</b> <i>that over there (f)</i>   |
| Masc. Plural | <b>estos</b> <i>these (m)</i> | <b>esos</b> <i>those (m)</i> | <b>aquellos</b> <i>those over there (m)</i> |
| Fem. Plural  | <b>estas</b> <i>these (f)</i> | <b>esas</b> <i>those (f)</i> | <b>aquellas</b> <i>those over there (f)</i> |

#### The Neuter Forms (Los Neutros)

These three forms NEVER change — no gender, no plural:

|             |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ESTO</b> | this (unknown thing / abstract) |
|-------------|---------------------------------|

#### Agreement Rules

Demonstratives agree in GENDER and NUMBER with the noun they describe:

**este libro** (*masc. sing.* → -E)

**esta mesa** (*fem. sing.* → -A)

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ESO</b>     | that (unknown thing / situation)     |
| <b>AQUELLO</b> | that over there (abstract / distant) |

→ "¿Qué es **eso**?" (pointing at unknown thing)  
 → "**Esto** no sirve para nada." (situation)

**esos libros** (masc. pl. → -OS)  
**esas mesas** (fem. pl. → -AS)  
**aquellas chicas** (fem. pl. far → -AS)

**⚠ KEY: ESTO/ESO/AQUELLO → NO agreement. Always the same!**

## ◆ SECTION 2 — EXERCISES

**01 — Distance Decoder** 🗺️

Read each sentence. Decide which distance zone (CERCA / MEDIA / LEJOS) the underlined demonstrative indicates, and write it in the box. Then explain WHY in one word.  
**You are deducing distance from context — not just matching forms!**

| #  | Sentence   | Zone | Why? (1 word) |
|----|--|------|---------------|
| 1. | ¿Me pasas <u>este</u> teléfono que tienes ahí en la mesa?                  |      |               |
| 2. | A <u>aquella</u> montaña que ves allí a lo lejos es muy bonita.            |      |               |
| 3. | Esta <u>camisa</u> que llevo puesta es de mi madre.                        |      |               |
| 4. | ¿Ves <u>ese</u> edificio ahí enfrente? Allí trabajo yo.                    |      |               |
| 5. | No puedo leer <u>aquellos</u> carteles desde aquí — están demasiado lejos. |      |               |
| 6. | Dame <u>esta</u> bolsa — la tengo aquí mismo.                              |      |               |

**02 — Sentence Transformer**

Each sentence uses CERCA distance. Rewrite it twice: once moving the object to MEDIA distance, then to LEJOS distance. Remember to change the distance adverb too (aquí → ahí → allí).

**Example: "Este café está aquí." → Ese café está ahí. → Aquel café está allí.**

1. **Esta botella está aquí.**

**MEDIA** → \_\_\_\_\_

**LEJOS**

→

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**2.** Estos zapatos aquí me gustan mucho.

**MEDIA** →

---

**LEJOS**

→

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**3.** Esta chica de aquí habla muy rápido.

**MEDIA** →

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**LEJOS**

→

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**03 — The Monster Scene!**

Look carefully at the image. The characters are at **THREE** different distances from the viewer. Use demonstratives to describe each one!

*The characters: E.T. on a bike (foreground), Baby Yoda (foreground), Bigfoot (middle), Stay Puft/Marshmallow Man (middle), Alien/Xenomorph (middle), Godzilla (background), King Kong on the mountain (far background).*



**ESTE / ESTA / ESTOS**

CERCA (Aquí)

E.T. + Baby Yoda (foreground)

**ESE / ESA / ESOS**

MEDIA (Ahí)

Bigfoot · Stay Puft · Alien

**AQUEL / AQUELLA**

LEJOS (Allí)

Godzilla · King Kong (far bg)

1. Point to E.T. — ¿Cómo describes a este personaje? Write a full sentence using **ESTE/ESTA + verb SER or ESTAR**.

→ Hint: Este/esta [description] está/es... ¿Qué hace? ¿Dónde está?

→

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2. Point to the Bigfoot. ¿Usas ESE o ESA? ¿Por qué? Write a sentence describing him.

→ Bigfoot = el/la... ¿is it masculine or feminine? Check your agreement!

→

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3. Point to King Kong on the mountain. Write a sentence with **AQUEL/AQUELLA + a comparison**.

→ Aquel gorila enorme que está allí en la montaña...

→

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4. You see something scary crawling near the rocks. You don't know what it is. Use a **NEUTRO (ESTO/ESO/AQUELLO)** to ask about it.

→ ¿Qué es \_\_\_\_\_ que está ahí cerca de las rocas?

→

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5. Pick your favourite character in the image. Write 2 sentences: one describing what they're like (**SER**) and one describing what state they seem to be in right now (**ESTAR**).

→ Use the correct demonstrative for their distance.

→

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## PRODUCTION EXERCISES

Your turn — no word banks, just you and Spanish.

### ◆ SECTION 3 — YOUR TURN!

#### 06 — View from Your Window

Look out of the nearest window right now (or imagine it). Write 6–8 sentences describing what you see — using ALL three distance zones.

**You MUST include:**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>ESTE/ESTA (×2)</b><br>Something <b>CLOSE</b> | <b>ESE/ESA (×2)</b><br>Something at <b>MEDIUM</b> distance | <b>AQUEL/AQUELLA (×1)</b><br>Something <b>FAR AWAY</b> |
|---|--|--|

+ At least 1 NEUTRO (ESTO/ESO/AQUELLO) · At least 2 verbs SER and ESTAR

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### ◆ BONUS — COMMON ERRORS TO AVOID

| ✗ Incorrect                                  | ✓ Correct                                 | Why?  |
|--|---|---|
| Estos silla es cómoda.                       | Esta silla es cómoda.                     | "Silla" is feminine → <b>ESTA</b> , not <b>ESTOS</b>                        |
| ¿Qué es esto libro?                          | ¿Qué es este libro?                       | Known noun: libro (masc.) → <b>ESTE</b> , not <b>ESTO</b> (neutro)          |
| Esos chicos allí son altos.                  | <b>Aquellos</b> chicos de allí son altos. | <b>ALLÍ</b> signals far distance → <b>AQUEL/AQUELLOS</b> , not <b>ESO</b>   |
| ¿Qué es esa? (pointing at something unknown) | ¿Qué es <b>eso</b> ?                      | Unknown thing/object → neuter <b>ESO</b> , not <b>ESA</b>                   |
| Estos zapatos de ahí me gustan.              | <b>Esos</b> zapatos de ahí me gustan.     | <b>AHÍ</b> signals medium distance → <b>ESE/ESOS</b> , not <b>ESTE</b>      |
| Aquellos es muy lejos.                       | <b>Aquello</b> es muy lejos.              | "Aquellos" is plural of aquel (noun). The situation = neuter <b>AQUELLO</b> |

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