Demonstrative Pronouns

1. Focus

Explain Demonstrative Pronouns

Point to the clock on the wall. Say: The clock is over on the wall. That is a big clock. (Point to several books on a shelf at a short distance from you.) I like the books over there on the shelf. Those are some good books. Have students point to the objects and repeat the sentences after you.

Say: We know that a pronoun is a word that replaces a noun in a sentence. In the sentences we just said aloud, the words that and those are pronouns. They are called demonstrative pronouns. A demonstrative pronoun identifies a specific noun or pronoun. The demonstrative pronoun that refers to a singular noun that is detached from the speaker or located a distance away. The demonstrative pronoun those refers to a plural noun that is at a distance from the speaker. Writers often use demonstrative pronouns in memoirs to refer to specific people and events.

Model Using Demonstrative Pronouns

Display the following text (with underlining) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

1. One common mistake in parachuting is to think a road is water; that is a big mistake!
2. There are some airplanes over in the field. Those are the kinds of airplanes with two engines each.

Modeling Text

Read sentence 1. Say: In this sentence, the word that is a demonstrative pronoun. It identifies a specific mistake that some parachute jumpers may make—not specifically the speaker of the sentence. The word mistake is a singular noun. So it makes sense that the demonstrative pronoun is singular, too.

Read sentence 2. Say: In this sentence, the word those identifies specific airplanes located in a field at a distance from the speaker. The word airplanes is a plural noun and the word those is a plural demonstrative pronoun. Authors use demonstrative pronouns in their writing when they want to identify specific nouns.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

- Identify the demonstrative pronouns that and those in sentences.
- Distinguish singular and plural demonstrative pronouns.

Preparation

Materials Needed

- Chart paper and markers
- Demonstrative Pronouns That and Those (BLM 6)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text (with underlining) and practice text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson. If necessary, copy the sentence frames from “Strategies to Support ELs” onto chart paper.
**2. Rehearse**

**Practice Using Demonstrative Pronouns**

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to work with partners to identify the demonstrative pronouns in each sentence and tell whether the pronoun is singular or plural. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

1. That is a nice parachute.
2. There were some soldiers in Vietnam; those were some soldiers who had to be brave.

**Practice Text**

**Share Practice Sentences**

Invite partners to share the demonstrative pronouns they identified in each sentence and tell whether the pronoun refers to a singular or plural noun distant from the speaker in some way. Discuss their choices. Ask the following questions:

- Which sentence contains a singular pronoun?
- Which sentence contains a plural pronoun?
- What is the noun that the pronoun identifies?

**3. Independent Writing and Conferring**

**Say:** We learned that demonstrative pronouns identify a specific noun or pronoun. That identifies a singular noun that is distant from the speaker in some way. Those identifies a plural noun that is distant from the speaker in some way. Remember to use demonstrative pronouns correctly in your memoir writing.

If you would like to give students additional practice using demonstrative pronouns in sentences, have them complete BLM 6.

**4. Share**

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 6. Ask students to share what they learned about the demonstrative pronouns that and those.

**Strategies to Support ELs**

**Beginning**

Support beginning ELs by helping them use demonstrative pronouns. Point to objects across the classroom as you model using demonstrative pronouns. **Say:** The chair over there is yours. **That** is yours. The notebooks are on the shelf. **Those** are on the shelf.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers to complete the practice sentences and the BLM. Provide the following sentence frames to help students with their oral language:

- _____ is a singular pronoun.
- _____ is a plural pronoun.