Demonstrative Pronouns

1. Focus

Explain Demonstrative Pronouns

Write the following sentences, with underlining, on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources: “This tastes delicious. Jack brought these.”

Read the sentences aloud. Say: We know that a pronoun is a word that replaces a noun in a sentence. In these sentences, this and these are pronouns. They are called demonstrative pronouns. Demonstrative pronouns identify a specific noun or pronoun. The demonstrative pronoun this refers to a singular noun that is located near the speaker. The demonstrative pronoun these refers to plural noun that is located near the speaker. Writers often use demonstrative pronouns in memoirs to refer to specific people and events.

Model Using Demonstrative Pronouns

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

1. I stepped onto a bus. This took me to Herald Square in Manhattan.
2. We listened to the folk songs, and these gave us hope and encouragement.

Modeling Text

Read sentence 1. Say: I see that the pronoun this identifies something that took the writer to Herald Square: the bus mentioned earlier. I remember that this refers to a singular noun that is near the speaker. The singular noun in the sentence is bus. The speaker gets on the bus. The writer uses the demonstrative pronoun this correctly.

Read sentence 2. Say: I see that in this sentence, the writer mentions folk songs and then uses the demonstrative pronoun these to refer to them again. The word these refers to the plural noun songs, and these songs seem to have been played near the speaker. So the writer uses the demonstrative pronoun correctly.
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 pronoun 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. I am surrounded by many young people. These are the people who are angry about the war.
2. Here is a picture of a peace march; this was taken in the 1960s.

Practice Text

Share Demonstrative Pronouns

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

• What is the demonstrative pronoun in the sentence?
• Does the pronoun refer to a singular or plural noun?
• 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. The demonstrative pronoun this identifies a singular noun near the speaker. The demonstrative pronoun these identifies a plural noun near the speaker. Remember to use demonstrative pronouns in your memoir writing pieces to refer to specific people and events.

If you would like to give students additional practice using demonstrative pronouns in sentences, have them complete BLM 3.

4. Share

Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 3. Ask students to share what they learned about the demonstrative pronouns this and these.

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Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning
Support beginning ELs with using demonstrative pronouns. Point to objects nearby in the classroom as you model the use of words such as this and these. Gesture to emphasize the demonstrative pronouns. Say: I see a pencil. I see this. I have books. I have these.

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.