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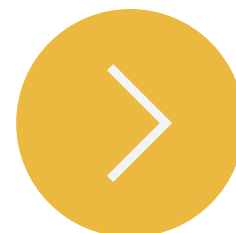
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Pronouns

PRONOUNS L7 – DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

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Video Lesson:

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WHAT ARE DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS?

- We use demonstrative pronouns to emphasize (to demonstrate) something.
- They are always strongly stressed.
- They can be used as a placeholder for a previously mentioned noun.
- There are different demonstrative pronouns.
- They are used to avoid the repetition of the noun.

"DER, DIE, AND DAS" AS DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

The declension of the demonstrative pronouns "der", "die", and "das" is very similar to the declension of the relative pronouns.

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	der	den	dem	dessen
Neuter	das	das	dem	dessen
Feminine	die	die	der	deren
Plural	die	die	denen	deren/derer

WORD ORDER

Demonstrative pronouns are strongly stressed and are often in position 1:

- „Der Mann gibt der Frau **den** Brief.“
- „**Den** gibt der Mann der Frau.“
- „**Den** gibt er ihr!“

Alternative word order: „Er gibt **den** ihr.“

Putting the demonstrative pronoun in the third or fourth position is not grammatically wrong, but it contradicts the stress and emphasis. Therefore, native speakers will probably be confused if you put it in a place other than position one.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN: "DAS"

"Das" combined with the verb "sein" refers to a person or thing (**pointing the finger at it**). We often combine it with the adverbs "hier", "da", and "dort".

- „Papa was ist **das** da?“ – „**Das** ist ein Hammer.“
 - „Wem gehören die Schuhe dort?“ – „**Das** sind meine!“
- If we don't know what something is, we use "das".

"Das" can also refer to an entire sentence content or situation.

- „Anna hat sich von Tobi getrennt!“
„Bist du dir sicher? **Das** kann nicht sein!“
- „Der Fernseher ist kaputt!“
„**Das** wusste ich auch so schon!“

A situation or idea has no gender → das

"DIESER" / "JENER"

"Dieser" and "jener" can be both articles and pronouns.

In both instances, they are declined the same way.

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	dies er	dies en	dies em	dies es
Neuter	dies es	dies es	dies em	dies es
Feminine	dies e	dies e	dies er	dies er
Plural	dies e	dies e	dies en	dies er

"Dieser" is used to emphasize something close to the speaker.

"Jener" is used to emphasize something further away from the speaker.

- „Gefallen dir die Schuhe?“
– „Nein, **diese** nicht aber **jene**!“
- „Ist **das** dein neues Auto?“
– „**Dieses** nicht, aber **jenes**!“

Dieser = this / these

Jener = that / those



Advice:

In informal language, "jenes" is rarely used.

Instead, "der", "die", "das", ... + "da"/"dort" are used.

„Gefallen dir die Schuhe?“ – „Nein, **diese** nicht aber **die dort**!“

„Ist **das** dein neues Auto?“ – „**Dieses** nicht, aber **das dort**!“

SUMMARY

- With demonstrative pronouns, we can stress and emphasize things.
- We use "der", "die", "das", and their declined versions.
- If we cannot determine the gender, we use "das".
- To show distance, we can use "dieser" or "jener".

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