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WHAT IS A DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN?

A **DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN** is a word that replaces a noun as if pointing to it.

In English and Arabic, demonstrative pronouns can be used as subjects or objects.

IN ENGLISH

The singular demonstrative pronouns are *this (one)* and *that (one)*; the plural forms are *these* and *those*.

The distinction between *this* and *that* can be used to contrast one object with another, or to refer to things that are not the same distance away. The speaker uses *this* or *these* for the objects closer to him or her and *that* or *those* for the ones farther away.

Here are two chairs. *This one* is firm; *that one* is soft.

antecedent singular singular

"These are my books," says Fuad, "I do not use *those*."

referring to the *books*at hand referring to the *books*

IN ARABIC

Like English, Arabic has two demonstrative pronouns, each serving to contrast distance. Unlike English, however, where *this* refers only to closeness to the speaker, the Arabic equivalent $h\bar{a}dh\bar{a}$ refers to something close to the speaker or to the person spoken to. Similarly, unlike *that* which refers only to distance from the speaker, the Arabic equivalent $dh\bar{a}lika$ refers to something far from the speaker and from the person spoken to. Consequently, to choose the correct Arabic equivalent you will have to disregard the English *this* or *that* and determine where the antecedent is situated in relationship to the speaker and the person(s) spoken to.

The Arabic demonstrative pronouns can be used either independently or as part of a phrase.

INDEPENDENT USAGE — When the Arabic demonstrative pronoun is used without a noun, it corresponds in usage to the English demonstrative pronoun. If the antecedent is identified somewhere in the sentence, the demonstrative pronoun agrees with it in gender and number; the case depends on the function of the demonstrative pronoun in the sentence. If the reference is not identified, the masculine singular form is used.

This [is] George and that [is] Laila. hādhā jōrj wa-tilka laylā.

- . $h\bar{a}\underline{dh}\bar{a}$ this: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with $j\bar{o}rj \to masc.$ sing., subj. \to nom.
- jōrj George: proper name, masc. sing. def., predicate, antecedent of hādhā
- . wa- and: conjunction
- . tilka that: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with layl $\bar{a} \rightarrow$ fem. sing., subj. in verbless sentence \rightarrow nom.
- laylā *Laila*: proper name, fem. sing. def., predicate, antecedent of tilka

What [is] **this** and what [is] **that**? mā **hādhā** wa-mā **dhālika**?

- . mā what?: interrogative pronoun, subj.
- hādhā this: demonstrative pronoun, no antecedent → masc. sing., predicate
- . wa- and: conjunction
- . mā what?: interrogative pronoun, subj.
- . $\underline{dh}\overline{a}$ lika that: demonstrative pronoun, no antecedent \rightarrow masc. sing., predicate

DEMONSTRATIVE PHRASE — When the Arabic demonstrative pronoun is used with a noun, it corresponds in usage to the English demonstrative adjective (see *What is a Demonstrative Adjective?*, p. 54). The demonstrative phrase consists of the demonstrative pronoun + the definite article -1- + the noun. The demonstrative pronoun agrees with the following noun in gender and number and both go in the same case appropriate for their function.

Where did you buy **this book**? 'ayna i-<u>sh</u>taray-ti **h**ā<u>dh</u>ā -l-kitāb-a?

- . 'ayna where?: interrogative adverb
- . i-shtarayti you bought: verb, 2nd pers. fem. sing., perfect
- hādhā this: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with -l-kitāba → masc. sing. acc.
- **.** -**l**-**kitāba** *book*: noun, masc. sing. def., dir. obj. of verb \rightarrow acc.

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When did these (two) letters arrive? matā waṣal-at hāt-āni -l-risālat-āni?

- . matā when?: interrogative adverb
- waṣalat (she) arrived: verb, 3rd pers., agrees with subj.'s gender
 l-risālat-āni→ fem., verb precedes subj. → sing., perfect
- hātāni these (two): demonstrative pronoun, agrees with
 -l-risālat-āni → fem. dual, nom.
- -l-risālat-āni two letters: noun, fem. dual def., subj. of waṣalat

 → nom.

What came in **that letter** yesterday? mādhā jā'-a 'amsi fī **tilka l-risālat-i**?

- . mādhā what?: interrogative pronoun, subj. of jā'a
- . jā'a (he) came: verb, 3rd pers. masc. sing., perfect
- . 'amsi yesterday: adverb
- . fī in: preposition
- tilka that: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with l-risālati → fem. sing. gen.
- . 1-risālati letter: noun, fem. sing. def., obj. of $f\bar{i} \rightarrow gen$.

To choose the correct form of the demonstrative pronoun, follow these steps.

- 1. LOCATION:
 - a) antecedent is near the speaker or addressee $\rightarrow h\bar{a}\underline{dh}\bar{a}$
 - b) antecedent is away from both the speaker and addressee → dhālika
- 2. Gender and number:
 - a) if antecedent is mentioned \rightarrow pronoun agrees with it in gender and number
 - b) if no antecedent is mentioned \rightarrow pronoun masculine singular
- 3. CASE:
 - a) pronoun in independent usage \rightarrow based on its function in the sentence
 - b) demonstrative pronoun and noun in demonstrative phrase \rightarrow based on their function in the sentence

Here is a chart you can use as reference.

	NEAR SPEA OR ADDRES		FAR FROM SPEAKER AND ADDRESSEE		
	hādhā this, th	at, these, those	dhālika that, those		
ANTECEDENT GENDER:	Masc.	Fem.	Masc.	Fem.	
Number: Singular	hā <u>dh</u> ā	hā <u>dh</u> ihi			
Dual Nom. Gen./Acc.	hā <u>dh</u> -āni hā <u>dh</u> -ayni	hāt-āni hāt-ayni	<u>dh</u> ālika	tilka	
Plural	hā'u	ılā'i	'ulā'ika		

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Do:	vou	see	that	on	the	horizo	n?
ν	you	\mathcal{I}	LILVIL	OII	uiv	IIUIILUI	

hal tarā dhālika calā -l-'ufuq-i?

- . hal: interrogative particle, changes statement to question
- . tarā you see, verb, 2nd pers. masc. sing., imperfect
- . dhālika that over there [far from speaker and addressee]: demonstrative pronoun, no antecedent \rightarrow masc. sing.
- . calā on: preposition
- . -l-'ufuqi the horizon: noun, masc. sing. def., obj. of ${}^cal\bar{a} \to gen.$

That [is] a great idea [of yours].

hādhihi fikrat-u-n mumtāzat-u-n.

- . hādhihi that [near the person addressed]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent fikratun \rightarrow fem. sing., subj. \rightarrow nom.
- . fikratun idea: noun, fem. sing. indef., predicate in verbless sentence \rightarrow nom.
- . mumtazatun excellent: adjective, agrees with fikratun \rightarrow fem. sing. nom. indef.

This [is] the picture of the new house.

hādhihi sūrat-u -l-bayt-i -l-jadīd-i.

- . hādhihi this [near the speaker]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent $s\bar{u}ratu \rightarrow fem. sing. def., subj. in verbless sen$ tence \rightarrow nom.
- sūratu picture: noun, fem. sing., 1st term of gen. construct → def., predicate in verbless sentence \rightarrow nom.
- . -l-bayti (of) the house: noun, masc. sing. def., 2nd term of gen. construct \rightarrow gen.
- . -l-jadīd-i *new*: adjective, agrees with -l-bayti \rightarrow masc. sing. gen. def.

I bought some apples; I'm giving you these two.

'i-<u>sh</u>taray-tu ba^cd-a -l-tuffāh-i; sa-'u^ctī-ka **hāt-ayni**.

- . 'i-shtaraytu I bought: verb, 1st pers. sing., perfect
- . ba^cda some: noun, masc., sing., obj. of 'i-shtaraytu→ acc.
- . -l-tuffāhi apples: collective noun \rightarrow masc. sing. def., 2^{nd} term of gen. construct \rightarrow gen.
- . sa- will: future particle
- . 'u tī I give: verb, 1st pers. sing., imperfect
- . -ka you: suffixed pronoun, 2^{nd} pers. sing., ind. obj. of 'u t $\bar{i} \rightarrow$ acc.
- . hātayni these two [near the speaker]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with implied antecedent tuffāhatayni two apples → fem. dual, obj. of ' $u^c t i$, \rightarrow acc.

Who [is] that man?

man dhālika -l-rajul-u?

- . man who?: interrogative pronoun, subj. in verbless sentence
- . dhālika that [away from speaker and addressee]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent -l-rajulu \rightarrow masc. sing. nom.
- . -l-rajulu man: noun, masc. sing., predicate in verbless sentence \rightarrow nom.

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I came with those students. ji'-tu ma^ca 'ulā'ika -l-ṭullāb-i.

- ji'tu I came: verb, 1st pers. sing., perfect
- . ma^ca with: preposition
- . 'ula'ika those [away from speaker and addressee]: demonstrative pronoun, agrees with antecedent -l-tullābi \rightarrow masc. pl. gen.
- . -l-tullābi students: noun, masc. pl. def., obj. of $ma^ca \rightarrow gen$.