

This, That, Which

这是什么

01 Intro

Learn the words for pointing at things — "**this / that / which**" (这/那 / 哪) — and "**的**," which marks "of / 's." Handy when pointing out products or menu items to a guest.

02 Words

1 **这** (pron.)
zhè
this

2 **那** (pron.)
nà
that

3 **哪** (pron.)
nǎ
which

4 **个** (measure)
ge
general measure word
(counts most items)

5 **的** (part.)
de
of / 's (possessive)

6 **东西** (n.)
dōngxi
thing, item

7 茶 (n.)
chá
tea

8 水 (n.)
shuǐ
water

03 Patterns

1 zhè shì shénme
这是什么？

| What is this?

2 zhè shì chá.
这是茶。

| This is tea.

3 nà shì shuǐ ma
那是水吗？

| Is that water?

4 zhè shì wǒ de
这是我的。

| This is mine.

5 nǎ ge shì nǐ de
哪个是你的？

| Which one is yours?

04 Dialog

SCENE At the shop

gùkè
顾客

Customer

qǐngwèn zhè shì shénme
请问，这是什么？

diànyuán
店员

Staff

zhè shì chá
这是茶。

gùkè
顾客

Customer

nà shì shuǐ ma
那是水吗？

diànyuán
店员

Staff

shì , nà shì shuǐ
是，那是水。

05 Grammar

Grammar Point

Demonstratives "这·那·哪" / "的 (of / 's)"

Use **这** for something near the speaker, **那** for something farther away, and **哪** to ask which one.

① 这·那·哪

Add "**个 + noun**" after them to say "this ... / that ... / which ..." (这个 / 那个 / 哪个).

① zhè ge dōngxi 这个东西

this item.

② nǎ ge shì chá 哪个是茶？

Which one is the tea?

② 的 (of / 's)

It marks "whose" or "what kind of." 我的 (wǒ de, mine), 你的 (nǐ de, yours). The noun afterward can be dropped when it is clear from context.

① zhè shì wǒ de.
这是我的。

This is mine.

② nà shì nǐ de ma
那是你的吗？

Is that yours?

Service tip: To point out a product, "这个" (zhè ge) or "那个" (nà ge) plus a gesture gets the message across just fine.

06 Practice

1 Point at something nearby and try "这是
shénme zhè shì
什么?" and "这是○○."

2 Say "这是我的" (zhè shì wǒ de) and "那是你的." (nà shì nǐ de)

3 Answer "哪个是你的?" (nǎ ge shì nǐ de) with "这个是我的." (zhè ge shì wǒ de)

07 Translation

Dialog — Reference Translation

Customer Excuse me, what is this?

Staff This is tea.

Customer Is that water?

Staff Yes, that is water.