Aim of this section is to learn the demonstrative pronous and their use in the four cases.

| German | English |
| --- | --- |
| Ich möchte **dieses** Auto haben. | I'd like to have **this** car. |
| Kennst du **diese** Frau? | Do you know **this** woman? |
| Siehst du **jenen** Mann? | Do you see **that** man? |

## rules

### The purpose of demonstrative pronouns

The purpose of demonstrative pronouns is easy to understand and no big deal.
They precede a noun (like an article) with the special feature that you point out verbally
somebody or something by using them.

### Difference between "dieser" and "jener"

In English we distinguish between "this" and "that" (singular) and "these" and "those" (plural).
"This" and "these" is used for people/things which are close to the speaker.
"That" and "those" is used for people/things which aren't close to the speaker.

In German we don't make a difference like this. Hardly anybody uses the word "jener".
That's why I suggest we leave out "jener" for now and you keep in mind that, basically,
it means the same as "dieser".

### The problem - endings

The real problem are the endings of demonstrative pronouns.
They depend on the **gender**, **numerus** and **case** of the noun.
To choose the correct ending you need exactly the same rules which we used already in *Adjektivendungen*.

example:

Ich liebe **dieses** Spiel. (I love this game.)

- gender of "Spiel": *neuter*
- numerus of "Spiel": *singular*
- case of "Spiel" here: *accusative* ("Ich" is the subject of the sentence. "Spiel" is the direct object.)

If you look for singular, neuter, accusative you'll find the ending "es". So it must be "dies**es** Spiel".

### tables

"declension" of the demonstrative pronoun: **dies-**

| case | singular | | | plural |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| | male | female | neuter | - |
| nominative | dies**er** Mann | dies**e** Frau | dies**es** Kind | dies**e** Kinder |
| genitive | dies**es** Mann**es** | dies**er** Frau | dies**es** Kind**es** | dies**er** Kinder |
| dative | dies**em** Mann | dies**er** Frau | dies**em** Kind | dies**en** Kinder**n** |
| accusative | dies**en** Mann | dies**e** Frau | dies**es** Kind | dies**e** Kinder |

"declension" of the demonstrative pronoun: **jen-**

| case | singular | | | plural |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| | male | female | neuter | - |
| nominative | jen**er** Mann | jen**e** Frau | jen**es** Kind | jen**e** Kinder |
| genitive | jen**es** Mann**es** | jen**er** Frau | jen**es** Kind**es** | jen**er** Kinder |
| dative | jen**em** Mann | jen**er** Frau | jen**em** Kind | jen**en** Kinder**n** |
| accusative | jen**en** Mann | jen**e** Frau | jen**es** Kind | jen**e** Kinder |

If you carefully check the tables you can see that in a few situations (singular, genitive, male + neuter and plural, dative) not just the ending of "dies-" change but the noun gets an additional ending, too.

For the endings in the genitive case please check the theory part *4 Fälle* on page 11.

> The rule for the ending in the dative case is:
> If the noun ends with a "n" don't add an additional "n". Otherwise add a "n".

examples:

- **diese Kinde<u>r</u>** (ends with "r") => diesen Kinder**n**
- **diese Mensche<u>n</u>** (ends already with "n") => diesen Menschen