

Near Demonstratives

The near demonstratives (“this, these”) have regular case endings and mainly follow the forms of the definite article, with a few minor exceptions. In the chart below, all forms of the article are in blue. In the columns of the Near Demonstratives (this, these), the endings are in blue insofar as the ending reflects exactly the form of the article. Where the ending diverges from the form of the article, the letter is highlighted in red. Did you notice this only happens in 4 places--all in the nominative? This is why it’s critically important that you MEMORIZE THE ARTICLE; if you do, then you already will know how to parse any of the near demonstrative pronouns/adjectives.

As well, within the columns of the Near Demonstrative, where the *beginning* of the form differs from the rest of the column, I have made the letter BIG to draw your attention to it. For ex., in the fem. demonstrative column, the first two vowels of each form are the diphthong -αυ-, but in the gen. pl., it is -ου-. So, you might expect to see a form like ταύτων; instead, you get τούτων.

	masc		fem		neut	
	Near De- monstrative	Article	Near De- monstrative	Article	Near De- monstrative	Article
nom sg:	οὗτος	ὁ	αὕτη	ἡ	τούτο	τό
gen sg:	τούτου	τού	ταύτης	τῆς	τούτου	τού
dat sg:	τούτῳ	τῷ	ταύτῃ	τῇ	τούτῳ	τῷ
acc sg:	τούτον	τόν	ταύτην	τήν	τούτο	τό
nom pl:	οὗτοι	οἱ	αὗται	αἱ	ταῦτα	τά
gen pl:	τούτων	τῶν	τούτων	τῶν	τούτων	τῶν
dat pl:	τούτοις	τοῖς	ταύταις	ταῖς	τούτοις	τοῖς
acc pl:	τούτους	τούς	ταύτας	τάς	ταῦτα	τά

Comparison of the Near Demonstratives and the Third Person Pronouns

	masc		fem		neut	
	Near De- monstrative	Third Person Pronouns	Near De- monstrative	Third Person Pronouns	Near De- monstrative	Third Person Pronouns
nom sg:	οὗτος	αὐτός	αὕτη	αὐτή	τούτο	αὐτό
gen sg:	τούτου	αὐτοῦ	ταύτης	αὐτῆς	τούτου	αὐτοῦ
dat sg:	τούτῳ	αὐτῷ	ταύτῃ	αὐτῇ	τούτῳ	αὐτῷ
acc sg:	τούτον	αὐτόν	ταύτην	αὐτήν	τούτο	αὐτό
nom pl:	οὗτοι	αὐτοί	αὗται	αὐταί	ταῦτα	αὐτά
gen pl:	τούτων	αὐτῶν	τούτων	αὐτῶν	τούτων	αὐτῶν
dat pl:	τούτοις	αὐτοῖς	ταύταις	αὐταῖς	τούτοις	αὐτοῖς
acc pl:	τούτους	αὐτούς	ταύτας	αὐτάς	ταῦτα	αὐτά

Note: the only place where there is potential ambiguity between the Near Demonstrative and the Third Person Pronoun is in the Nominative Fem Sing AND Plural forms. What's the difference? The Third Person Pronoun *ALWAYS* has the smooth breathing, the Near Demonstrative *ALWAYS* has the rough breathing. [As well, the stressed syllable is different.]

Note also that *almost always* the Near Demonstrative begins with a tau (τ-), whereas the Third Person Pronoun *never, ever* begins with a tau. It always begins with a smooth breathing, and so *by definition* must always begin with a vowel (here, a diphthong!).