

TRANSCRIPT

EPISODE 10: DURIANS

Hello. I'm Margot Politis. Welcome to Study English, IELTS preparation.

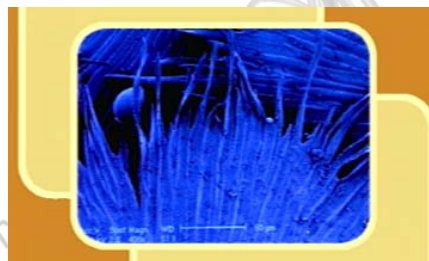
Today, we're going to look at the use of pronouns in a story about durian orchards.

English uses a range of pronouns for different functions. For example, there are *personal pronouns*, *possessive pronouns*, *demonstrative pronouns* and *reflexive pronouns*.

Today, we're going to look at *demonstrative* and *reflexive pronouns*.

But first we're going to meet Laura Fitzgerald, a durian researcher. She is describing a durian leaf. Listen to how she uses the demonstrative pronouns 'this' and 'that'.

This is the underside of the leaf and we're seeing it at a 406 times magnification. These are the hairs that you see here. This is one of the reproductive structures of the pathogen and it's called a sporangia and what's happened is, it's been in a drop of rain and it's splashed on to the underside of the leaf and it's gotten caught in the hairs and it's what we call germinated and started to grow across the surface of the leaf.



New research is investigating ways of inoculating, or vaccinating, durian trees grown in orchards with the good fungi to help the plant protect itself from disease.

She says:

"This is the underside."

"These are the hairs."

Demonstrative pronouns demonstrate both distance and number – how close something is, and how many there are.

We can show this on a table.

'This' is used for *singular nouns* that are near to you.

'These' are used for *plural nouns* that are near to you.

Laura is looking at a durian leaf, and referring to part of it. The leaf is very close to her, so Laura refers to it using the *demonstrative pronouns* for near things: 'this' and 'these'.

"This is the underside."

"These are the hairs."

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Now listen to Dr David Guest discussing the effect of the typhoon on the durian orchards.

In 1994 in Thailand there was a typhoon around Chanta Buri, which is the main growing area. What happened after that typhoon is that some of the trees were damaged by the strong winds, but after that typhoon there was an epidemic of phytophthora, and some orchards were completely destroyed by that epidemic.



He says:

“that typhoon”,

“that epidemic”.

‘That’ is a *demonstrative pronoun* used with *singular nouns* that are far away.

‘Those’ is used with *plural nouns* that are far away.

The typhoon was distant or far away from the speaker. It was in Chanta Buri, Thailand. The typhoon was also distant in time. It was years ago, in 1994. This is why he refers to it as ‘that typhoon’.

	near	far
singular	this	that
plural	these	those

So demonstrative pronouns apply not only to *spatial relations* ‘near and far’, but also to *time relations* ‘now and then’.

In both cases, the pronouns convey distance.

Let’s look at some examples.

“I like this new movie better than that old one.”

‘This movie’ means a recent movie, a movie close to ‘now’ in time.

‘That movie’ means an older movie, more distant in time.

“These biscuits are nicer than those.”

‘These biscuits’ means they are physically close to the speaker. ‘Those biscuits’ are further away.

STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

Listen to Dr David Guest again using 'that' for a different grammatical purpose.

In 1994 in Thailand there was a typhoon around Chanta Buri, which is the main growing area. What happened after that typhoon is that some of the trees were damaged by the strong winds, but after that typhoon there was an epidemic of phytophthora, and some orchards were completely destroyed by that epidemic.

He says: "What happened is 'that' some of the trees were damaged."

The word 'that' is not used as a *pronoun* here, but as a *complement*, introducing what happened.

We can remove 'that' and the sentence means the same thing.

"What happened is some of the trees were damaged."

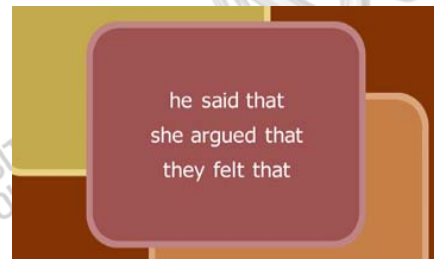
You will see 'that' used as a *complement* most commonly when reporting speech, ideas or feelings:

'he said that',

'she argued that',

'they felt that'.

'That' is the complement of the verbs 'said', 'argued' and 'felt'.



By now you should be familiar with using demonstrative pronouns to make reference to time and space.

Let's look at another group of pronouns – *reflexive pronouns*. There is one used twice used in this clip. See if you can pick it.

Because there's a growing Asian population in Australia there's a growing demand for durians. So we import durians, mostly from Thailand and Thailand's certainly the world leader in durian production. Throughout Southeast Asia it's the most popular tropical fruit and the industry itself's worth somewhere between 2 or 3 billion US dollars a year.



New research is investigating ways of inoculating, or vaccinating, durian trees grown in orchards with the good fungi to help the plant protect itself from disease.

He says: "the industry itself".

'Itself' is a *reflexive pronoun*.

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IELTS PREPARATION

One of the functions of *reflexive pronouns* is for emphasis, to mean ‘that person or thing and nobody or nothing else’.

For example:

“The house ‘itself’ is beautiful but the street is a bit noisy.”

“I wasn’t happy with the service, so I went to confront the manager ‘myself’.”

In these examples, the *reflexive pronouns* ‘itself’ and ‘myself’ refer back to the *subjects* of the sentences, the *noun* ‘house’ and the *pronoun* ‘I’. They add emphasis to the statements.

Let’s look at the whole group of *reflexive pronouns* in this table.

I might want to emphasise ‘myself’ if I am speaking in the *first person*, or ‘ourselves’ if I am talking about me and my friends, using the *plural form*.

I could speak in the *second person* about ‘yourself’ or ‘yourselves’.

Using *third person*, I can emphasise ‘himself, herself, itself or oneself’. The *plural form* is ‘themselves’.

All of these words are *reflexive pronouns* that can be used for emphasis.

Listen to the clip again.

Because there’s a growing Asian population in Australia there’s a growing demand for durians. So we import durians, mostly from Thailand and Thailand’s certainly the world leader in durian production. Throughout Southeast Asia it’s the most popular tropical fruit and the industry itself’s worth somewhere between 2 or 3 billion US dollars a year.



Reflexive Pronouns		
Person	Singular	Plural
1st	myself	ourselves
2nd	yourself	yourselves
3rd	himself herself itself oneself	themselves



New research is investigating ways of inoculating, or vaccinating, durian trees grown in orchards with the good fungi to help the plant protect itself from disease.

The reporter says: “to help the plant protect itself from disease”.

The *reflexive* ‘itself’ refers back to the subject of this clause. The *subject* and the *object* are the same - ‘the plant’.

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A common use of reflexive pronouns is to refer to objects or actions where the subject and object are the same person or thing.

For example:

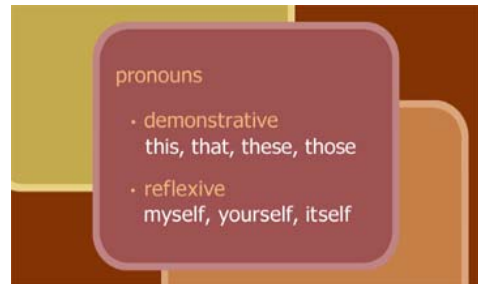
“I cut ‘myself’ shaving this morning.” (not ‘I cut me’);

“I got out of the bath and dried ‘myself’.” (not ‘dried me’);

“We made ‘ourselves’ a cup of coffee.” (not ‘made us’).

Ok, so today we’ve looked at *pronouns*. We’ve talked about *demonstrative pronouns* – ‘this’ ‘these’ ‘that’ ‘those’, and *reflexive pronouns* like ‘myself’, ‘yourself’, ‘itself’.

To find more help on *pronouns*, you can visit our website anytime. You’ll find today’s story, transcript, study notes and exercises.



That’s all for today. I’ll see you next time on Study English. Bye bye.

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