

45. Demonstrative pronouns

1 Definitions

Demonstrative pronouns are pronouns used to point out a particular thing or things:

Voici deux voitures de sport: **celle-ci** est italienne et **celle-là** est allemande

Here are two sports cars: this one is Italian and that one is German

2.1 Forms

	<i>sing</i>	<i>pl</i>
<i>masc</i>	celui	ceux
<i>fem</i>	celle	celles

Other demonstrative pronouns are: *ceci*, *cela*, *ce* and *il*

2.2 Use of *celui* and derivatives

These are used before describing structures beginning with:

- a relative pronoun:
Quel étudiant? **Celui** qui arrive toujours en retard
Which student? The one who always arrives late
- the preposition *de*:
Ce n'est pas mon livre, c'est **celui** de Pierre
It's not my book, it's Peter's

2.3 *Celui-ci* / *celui-là* and derivatives

The words *-ci* and *-là* are added to *celui*, *celle*, *ceux* and *celles* where there is no describing structure:

Il y a plusieurs modèles disponibles, mais **celui-ci** est le plus populaire
There are several models available, but this one is the most popular

They are often used to express a distinction:

Voici deux livres. **Celui-ci** est bon marché, **celui-là** est plus cher
Here are two books. This one is cheap, that one is more expensive

Celui-ci, *celle-ci* etc. can also mean "the latter", and *celui-là*, *celle-là* etc. "the former".

Le professeur a regardé le garçon fixement; **celui-ci** est resté figé sur sa place
The teacher stared at the boy; the latter stood frozen to the spot

2.4 *Tous ceux* / *toutes celles* refer to specific people and things, and have the sense of "everyone", "all those" etc.:

Toutes celles qui s'y intéressent sont priées d'assister à la soirée
All those who are interested are welcome to attend the evening

Tout ce refers to things, ideas etc., and has the sense of "everything" or "all":

Tout ce qui se trouvait dans la maison a été confisqué
Everything that was found in the house was confiscated

- 2.5** *Cela* / *ça* is used when referring to a statement or idea rather than to a specific noun, or to something, either an object or an idea, which has not yet been mentioned:

Cela est le plus grand danger

That's the biggest danger

Ça n'a pas de sens d'arriver deux jours à l'avance

It doesn't make sense to arrive two days early

<i>Cela</i> can be replaced by <i>ça</i> in spoken or less formal written French.
