

We use **one** (singular) and **ones** (plural) to avoid **unnecessary repetition**.

- See those two girls? Helen is the tall **one** and Jane is the short **one**.
- Which is your car, the red **one** or the blue **one**?
- My trousers are torn. I need some new **ones**.
- See those two girls. Helen is the **one** on the left.
- Let's look at the photographs. The **ones** you took in Paris.

We often use them after **Which ...** in questions:

- You can borrow a book. Which **one** do you want?
- There are lots of books here. Which **ones** are yours?

When we do not want to repeat a noun in a sentence, we use the pronoun "one":

"Do you like this dress or that dress?"

We can say...

"Do you like this dress or that **one**?"

"Do you like this **one** or that **one**?"

We cannot say "this or that?" because these adjectives in English must always be followed by a noun, which can be either "dress" or the word that replaces it; in this case "one".

Here is an example of a dialogue to help you understand better:

Maria: I want to buy a dress.

Alexandra: Do you want this **one** or that **one**?

Maria: That one, the white **one**.

As you can see, they are talking about dresses but they only use the noun "dress" once and the pronoun "one" is used in its place to avoid the repetition.

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Plural of “one”: “ones”

We use “ones” to refer to plural nouns.

“These ones or those ones?”

“Do you like these shoes or those ones?”

“The” before “one” or “ones”

Let’s look at the use of “the” before the pronouns “one” or “ones”. We can put “the” instead of “that” in front of the pronoun for a similar meaning.

“My house is that **one** on the corner” or “My house is **the one** on the corner”

“Her sandals are those **ones** with the pink dots” or “Her sandals are **the ones** with the pink dots”

Difference between “each one” and “every one”

We use “each one” when the subjects have a different color, price, etc. When the subjects share the same characteristics, we use “every one”.

“I have 6 pens and **each one** is a different colour”

“There are 4 cinemas and **every one** is showing a horror movie”

But remember that “every one” and “everyone” does not mean the same!

“Everyone” is used to refer to people and means the same as “everybody”.

“Every one” means the same as “all of them” and we use it for emphasis.

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