

C) THIS AND THAT

“nei” indicates nearness to the speaker. (-literally or by circumstances)

“nā” indicates nearness to the person(s) spoken to. (-literally or by circumstances)

“rā” indicates not near either the speaker or the person(s) being spoken to.
(-literally or by circumstances)

These little words are often added to other words to give the meanings as above.

Hei taurira (for example):

“Titiro ki te mea nei.”

“*Look at this thing here.*” (by me, where I am, on me etc.)

“Titiro ki te mea nā.”

“*Look at that thing there.*” (by you, near you etc.)

“Titiro ki te mea rā.”

“*Look at that thing over there.*” (yonder etc.)

The above are examples of using these words in a casual way.

To be more emphatic, bring them forward – from the Maori descriptive position to the defining or emphasising position –

te mea nei → tēnei mea

te mea nā → tēnā mea

te mea rā → tērā mea

So - “Titiro ki te mea nei” becomes “Titiro ki tēnei mea.” (Look at this thing) and so on.

For plurals, drop the initial ‘t’ eg.

ēnei mea *these things (near me)*

ēnā mea *those things (near you)*

ērā mea *those things (over yonder, away from both of us)*

These emphatic forms can be used on their own, just as in English eg.

“Titiro ki tēnei.” “*Look at this.*”

“He aha ēnā?” “*What (are) those?*”

“Ko wai mā ērā?” “*Who are they over there?*”