

Ça vs Que vs Cette



LOVE LEARNING LANGUAGES

In English, the word *that* can mean many different things: *that* idea, I think *that*..., *that* book. In French, there's no single word that fits all those uses.

French uses **ça**, **que**, and **cette** (plus *ce* and *cet*) depending on what "that" refers to. Once you see their different roles, they will feel less confusing.

1. Ça - "That" meaning *that thing* or *that idea*

Use **ça** when you're referring to something **general**, not a specific noun, but a situation, idea, or object you're pointing to.

Examples:

- J'aime **ça**.
- I like **that**.

- Qu'est-ce que **ça** veut dire?
- What does **that** mean?

[LLL French Club](#)

[View the full lesson](#)

- Tu as vu **ça**?
- Did you see **that**?

- **Ça**, c'est incroyable.
- **That's** incredible.

If *that* refers to something **general**, like an idea, an action, or a situation, use **ça**.

2. Que - “That” as a connector between ideas

Use **que** when *that* links two parts of a sentence. For example, after verbs like *penser que*, *savoir que*, *dire que*, etc.

It doesn't mean *that thing*. It means *that* in the sense of *I know that...* / *the book that I read*.

Examples:

- Je pense **que** tu as raison.
- I think **that** you're right.

- Il dit **que** c'est vrai.
- He says **that** it's true.

- Le film **que** j'ai vu était passionnant.
- The movie **that** I saw was fascinating.
- Je sais **que** tu m'écoutes.
- I know **that** you're listening to me.

If *that* **connects ideas or clauses**, use **que**.

3. Cette - "That" before a specific noun

Use **cette** when *that* directly describes a feminine noun.
It's the feminine form of **ce** (masculine) and **cet** (masculine before a vowel).

Examples:

- **Cette** robe est jolie.
- **That** dress is pretty.
- **Cette** idée est intéressante.
- **That** idea is interesting.
- Regarde **cette** photo!
- Look at **that** photo!

- **Cette** voiture est chère.
- **That** car is expensive.

If *that* **modifies a noun**, use **ce / cet / cette** depending on the gender and first letter of the noun.

Masculine	Before a vowel	Feminine
ce livre	cet homme	cette idée

4. Comparing Ça vs Que vs Cette

Function	French	Example	Translation
Refers to a general idea	ça	J'adore ça .	I love that .
Connects two parts of a sentence	que	Je pense que tu as raison.	I think that you're right.

[LLL French Club](#)

[View the full lesson](#)

Describes a noun	cette	Cette robe est belle.	That dress is beautiful.
------------------	--------------	------------------------------	---------------------------------

5. How to remember

- If *that* **points to an idea**, use **ça**
- If *that* **connects two ideas**, use **que**
- If *that* **describes a noun**, use **cette / ce / cet**

[LLL French Club](#)

[View the full lesson](#)