Deixis: a function of referring expressions that relate utterances to the spatial-temporal coordinates of the utterance act.

Some deictic expressions:

(1) a. *here, there*

   b. *now, 5 years ago, yesterday*

   c. *I, you*

   d. *this, that*
(2) [John shows Bob an Acura Integra and a Mazda Miata]

Bob (pointing): I like this better than that.

(3) I bought an Integra yesterday. It’s similar to the one I bought five years ago. That one was really nice, but I like this one even better.
(4) [Chuck at the dentist, pointing at his tooth]  
This is the one that hurts.

(5) [Chuck at the dentist, dentist touching his tooth]  
That is the one that hurts.

(6) a. That’s yours and this is mine.  
b. This is yours and that’s mine.

(7) a. A: That’s yours and this is mine.  
b. B: No, that’s yours and this is mine.
Indefinite ‘this’ and Familiar ‘that’

(8) I saw this awesome Acura Integra today.

(9) That Acura Integra next door is awesome.
Self-Reference With \textit{This}

(10) \textit{This} sentence contains five words.

(11) John’s tires were about \textit{this} big.

(12) John speaks about \textit{this} loud.
Forward and Backward Deixis

(13) *This* is my imitation of a frog.
[Gives imitation]

(14) [Gives imitation]
*That* was my imitation of a frog.

(15) a. Okay, let me say *this*: blah blah...

b. # Okay, let me say *that*: blah blah...

c. Blah blah blah... *That* is what I think, anyway.
(16) According to John, Bob bought Sue an Integra, and Sue bought Fred a Legend.
   a. But *that* turned out to be a lie.
   b. But *that* was false.
   c. *That* struck me as a funny way to describe the situation.
   d. *That* caused Sue to become rather poor.
   e. *That* caused them both to become rather poor.
(17) Using microscopes and lasers and ultrasound, he removes tumors that are intertwined with children’s brain stems and spinal cords. There is only the most minute visual difference between the tumors and normal tissue. Operations can last 12 hours or more. The tiniest slip can kill, paralyze or leave a child mentally retarded. *This is the easy part of his job.*

(18) It’s always been presumed that when the glaciers receded, the area got very hot. The Folsum men couldn’t adapt, and they died out. *That’s* what’s supposed to have happened. *It’s* the textbook dogma. But *it’s* wrong. They were human and smart. They adapted their weapons and culture, and they survived.
More on *That*

(19) Segal, however, had his own problems with women: he had been trying to keep his marriage of seven years from falling apart; when *that* became impossible...

(20) Segal, however, had his own problems with women: he had been trying to keep his marriage of seven years from falling apart; when *that* became inevitable...
Discourse Structure

(21) For his part in their term project, John built a two-armed robot. He had learned about robotics in CSE391. For her part, Mary taught it how to play the saxophone.

a. *That* took her six months.

b. *That* earned them both A’s.