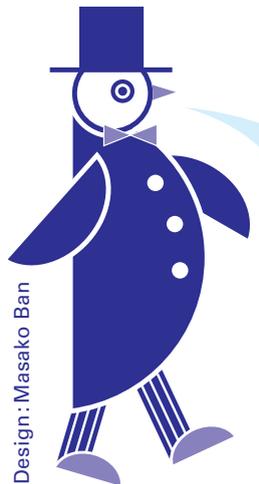


これ **kore** それ **sore** あれ **are**

Design: Masako Ban



Ms. Hirayama, there is something I want to ask you. When I first came to Japan, I learned "**kore, sore, are**" at a Japanese-language school. But recently, I have sensed that Japanese people use these words differently from the way I learned. The more I think about it, the more I get confused about how to use these words. I asked some Japanese friends to explain, but they said it was too difficult to explain clearly. Could you help me?

■■■ "Today, I'll start with the basics. In general, when students learn "**kore, sore, are**," they are taught about the "relationship between speaker and recipient." However, this explanation can be ambiguous and very confusing. So, I have devised a simple method to make the distinction clear. In Vol. 71, I'll explain more abstract and advanced usage of these words.

**Basic rule**

At first, consider whether you can touch it or not.

Far away!

"are/ achira" is used for things far away.

Untouchable!

"sore/sochira" is used for things nearby but out of reach.

Touchable!

"kore/ kochira" is used for things within your reach.

This has nothing to do with the "relationship between speaker and recipient."

◆ Shopping

Customer: Excuse me, may I take a look at that?

1. すいません **suimasen** over there 見せて下さい。 **misete kudasai**

Clerk: Is this it? 2. she touches **desu ka?**

Customer: No, that's not it! 3. いいえ、 **iie** you cannot touch **janai desu**

That one! 4. over there **desu**

◆ Useful phrase for shopping

Do you have a cheaper/bigger one than this? 5. you touch **yori yasui / ōki no arimasu ka?**

Do you have it in different color? 6. you cannot touch **no iro chigai arimasu ka?**

Could you wrap this one and this one separately? 7. you touch **to** you touch **betsubetsu ni tsutsunde kudasai**

Answers 1 - are 2 - kore 3 - sore 4 - are 5 - kore 6 - sore 7 - kore / kore

◆ Now we understand what "**kore, sore, are**" mean, let's apply that knowledge! just as it is

<p>このまま <b>kono mama</b></p> <p>(Leave this alone)</p>	<p>そのまま <b>sono mama</b></p> <p>(Leave it alone)</p>	<p>あのまま <b>ano mama</b></p> <p>(Leave that alone)</p>
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Let's practice!

To Ms. Takeda 武田さんへ **Takeda-san e**  
I had to go on urgent business. 急用でちょっと出かけます。 **kyūyō de chotto dekakemasu**  
Since I've not finished my work, まだ仕事の途中ですから **mada shigoto no tochū desu kara**  
please don't touch anything on my desk. 机の上は **A** にしておいて下さい。 **tsukue no ue wa ni shite oite kudasai**

On the phone .....  
Mr. A: We are having a party tonight, and we'd like you to come. 今晚パーティーがあるので来て下さい。 **konban party ga aru node kite kudasai**  
Miss. B: Gee... I wish I could, but ... I haven't got anything to wear... ええ...でも...服が... **ee.....demo .....fuku ga.....**  
Mr. A: It's just friends, so just bring yourself. 仲間内だけなので **B** どうぞ。 **nakamauchi dake nanode de dōzo**

Miss. B: Is that so? In that case, I'll come just like this. そうですね? じゃあ遠慮なく **C** で伺います。 **sō desu ka? jaa enryo naku de ukagaimasu**

Answers A - kono mama B - sono mama C - kono mama