



Design: Masako Ban

これ **kore** それ **sore** あれ **are**

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 kono mama</p> <p>(Leave this alone)</p>	<p>そのまま sono mama</p> <p>(Leave it alone)</p>	<p>あのまま ano mama</p> <p>(Leave that alone)</p>
--	--	---

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.....demofuku 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