

## LESSON NOTES

# Learn Japanese Grammar Video - Absolute Beginner S1 #3 Asking What Something is in Japanese

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Kanji
- 2 Kana
- 2 Romanization
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar

# 3

## KANJI

1. これ、それ、あれ
2. これは何ですか。

## KANA

1. これ、それ、あれ
2. これはなんですか。

## ROMANIZATION

1. Kore, sore, are.
2. Kore wa nan desu ka.

## ENGLISH

1. This, That, That (over there)
2. What is this?

## VOCABULARY

Kanji	Kana	Romaji	English
これ	これ	kore	this

それ	それ	sore	that
あれ	あれ	are	that(one over there)

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

これは本です。 <i>Kore wa hon desu.</i> This is a book.	それは、日本茶ですか。 <i>Sore wa nihon-cha desu ka.</i> Is that Japanese tea?
あれは何ですか。 <i>Are wa nan desu ka?</i> What's that?	

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is Asking What Something Is in Japanese This, That, and That Over There - Kore, Sore, Are**

In Japanese, there are three different demonstrative pronouns that can be used for "this" or "that" - *kore* (これ) , *sore* (それ) , and *are* (あれ) . They are part of the "ko-so-a-do" series of words which we will introduce more of later.

Japanese	English	
これ( <i>kore</i> )	this	something close to you, that you can touch
それ( <i>sore</i> )	that	something nearby but which is not within reach / which is closer to the other person than to you
あれ( <i>are</i> )	that	something far away from you / far away from both you and the other person

### For Example:

[The speaker is holding a cup.]

**Kore wa kōhī desu.**

これはコーヒーです。

"This is coffee."

[It is closest to the speaker. So *kore* is used.]

[The speaker points to something on the listener's desk.]

**Sore wa konpyūta desu.**

それはコンピューターです。

"That is a computer."

[It is not within the speaker's reach, but close to the listener. So *sore* is used.]

[The speaker points to a building across the street.]

**Are wa byōin desu.**

あれは病院です。

"That is a hospital."

[It is far from both of the speaker and the listener. So *are* is used.]

### Asking "What is This?"/"What is That?"

---

You can use the above words *kore*, *sore* and *are* to ask "What is this?" or "What is that?" in Japanese. It is important to use the right word depending on the distance of the object you're talking about so that the listener doesn't get confused, so be careful!

### Sentence Pattern:

***kore/sore/are wa nan desu ka?***

これ・それ・あれはなんですか。

What is this/that/that over there?

### For Example:

Two people are sitting at a restaurant table. A-san points to her own food and asks the waitress:

***Kore wa nan desu ka?***

これはなんですか。

**"What is this?"**

[It is closest to the speaker. So *kore* is used.]

She then points at what B-san is eating and says...

***Sore wa nan desu ka.***

**それはなんですか。**

**"What is that?"**

[It is not within the speaker's reach, but close to the listener. So *sore* is used.]

They both look out of the window of the restaurant at a faraway mountain. A-san says...

***Are wa nan desu ka.***

**あれはなんですか。**

**"What is that?"**

[It is far from both of the speaker and the listener. So *are* is used.]