

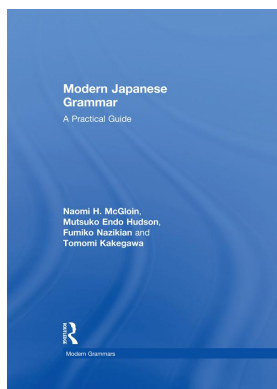
This article was downloaded by: 10.2.97.136

On: 21 Sep 2023

Access details: *subscription number*

Publisher: *Routledge*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: 5 Howick Place, London SW1P 1WG, UK



Modern Japanese Grammar A Practical Guide

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa, Sarah Butler

Demonstratives (ko-so-a(-do) words)

Publication details

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch9>

Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa

Published online on: 04 Oct 2013

How to cite :- Naomi H. McGloin, Mutsuko Endo Hudson, Fumiko Nazikian, Tomomi Kakegawa. 04 Oct 2013, *Demonstratives (ko-so-a(-do) words)* from: *Modern Japanese Grammar, A Practical Guide* Routledge

Accessed on: 21 Sep 2023

<https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9780203856628.ch9>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR DOCUMENT

Full terms and conditions of use: <https://test.routledgehandbooks.com/legal-notices/terms>

This Document PDF may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproductions, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The publisher shall not be liable for an loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

9

Demonstratives (*ko-so-a(-do)* words)

9.1 Concept of *ko-so-a(-do)*

9.1.1 Basic usage

There is a series of demonstrative words in Japanese, whose initial sounds are **ko-**, **so-**, **a-** and **do-**; e.g. **kore** ‘this thing,’ **sore** ‘that thing,’ **are** ‘that thing far away,’ **dore** ‘which one of the three or more things?’. **Do-**words are interrogatives (question words). The choice of **ko-**, **so-** and **a-** depends on the distance between the speakers and thing(s) referred to by the demonstrative. **Ko-**words are used when the speaker is talking about something close to him-/herself, **so-**words for something close to the listener, and **a-**words for something away from both the speaker and the listener.

これをください。

Kore o kudasai.

Please give me this / I will have this.

それはいくらですか。

Sore wa ikura desu ka.

How much is that?

あれは銀行です。

Are wa ginkoo desu.

That over there is a bank.

田中さんの傘はどれですか。

Tanaka-san no kasa wa dore desu ka.

Which one is Mr/Ms Tanaka’s umbrella?

9.1.2 Anaphoric usage

The **ko-so-a(-do)** words are also used to refer to an element mentioned in the preceding discourse. In this case, the **so-**series is used when either the speaker or the listener (i.e. just one party) is familiar with the referent, while **a-**series is used when both the speaker and the listener are (or are assumed to be) familiar with it.

In the following exchange, B is not familiar with the person in question (i.e. Tanaka’s friend), and thus **sono** is used.

A:きのう 田中さんが友達を紹介してくれたよ。

Kinoo Tanaka-san ga tomodachi o shookai shite kureta yo.

Yesterday Mr Tanaka introduced me to his friend.

B: その人、どんな人?

Sono hito, donna hito?

What is/was the person like?

In the following exchange, on the other hand, the speaker assumes that the listener knows the person being talking about, and hence uses **ano**.

去年パーティーで会った女の人、覚えてるでしょ。あの人、今どうしてるかな。
Kyonen paatii de atta onna no hito, oboete ru desho? Ano hito ima doo shite ru ka na.

You remember the lady we met at the party last year, right? I wonder what she (Lit. that person) is doing now.

9.2 Types of demonstratives

Ko-so-a(-do) words can refer to things, locations, directions, etc. The words indicating direction have neutral and polite forms.

thing	これ kore this thing	それ sore that thing	あれ are that thing over there	どれ dore which one
Location	ここ koko here	そこ soko there	あそこ asoko over there	どこ doko where
Direction (neutral)	こっち kotchi this way	そっち sotchi that way	あっち atchi that way over there	どっち dotchi which way
Direction (polite)	こちら kochira this way	そちら sochira that way	あちら achira that way over there	どちら dochira which way

Some **ko-so-a(-do)** words modify nouns (e.g. **kono** ‘this,’ **konna** ‘this kind of’), and others modify verbs (e.g. **koo** ‘this way’).

Demonstrative adjective 1	この kono this N	その sono this N	あの ano that N	どの dono which N
Demonstrative adjective 2 (kind of)	こんな konna this kind of	そんな sonna that kind of	あんな anna that kind of	どんな donna what kind of
Manner	こう koo like this	そう soo like that (as I or you just mentioned)	ああ aa like that (as we know in common)	どう doo how

The polite versions of the direction words, **kochira**, **sochira**, **achira**, and **dochira**, can also be used to refer to a person:

こちらは山田さんです。
Kochira wa Yamada-san desu.
 This is Mr/Ms Yamada.

あちらはどなたですか。
Achira wa donata desu ka.
 Who is that person over there?

そちらは田中さんです。
Sochira wa Tanaka-san desu.
 That person is Mr/Ms Tanaka.

鈴木さんはどちらですか。
Suzuki san wa dochira desu ka.
 Which person is Mr/Ms Suzuki?