

B. この/その/あの + NOUN は ~です。

KONO / SONO / ANO + NOUN WA ~ DESU.

This is a variation of the Noun 1 = Noun 2 pattern. The pre-nominatives function as modifiers of the noun which they precede. "KONO," "SONO" and "ANO" cannot be used without nouns immediately following them.

1. その えんぴつは わたしのです。

That pencil is mine.

SONO ENPITSU WA WATASHI-NO DESU.

2. あの ぼうしは ぼくのです。

That cap over there is mine.

ANO BOOSHI WA BOKU-NO DESU.

3. この おかねは わたしのです。

This money is mine.

KONO OKANE WA WATASHI-NO DESU.

### 【●ぶんかノート: Cultural Notes】

1. Don't use あなた ANATA to your teacher.

あなた ANATA is used to address persons of equal or lower status. It is rude to use あなた ANATA to your teacher. せんせい SENSEI should be used instead. Try to avoid using あなた ANATA in your conversations. Instead, use the listener's name to avoid being too direct.

### What is Mochi?

*Mochi*, or rice cake, is made from a sticky variety of rice that is steamed, and kneaded by machine or pounded with a mallet in a mortar. It is usually formed into small round flattened mounds or cut into small rectangular blocks.

*Mochi* came to Japan from Southeast Asia at the same time rice cultivation was introduced. Originally, *mochi* was offered to the gods at shrines. Later, it was eaten on various festive occasions. *Mochi* first appeared at New Year's celebrations sometime during the eighth through tenth centuries. It was used primarily as a decoration called *kagamimochi*. One round *mochi* was placed on a slightly larger one, decorated festively with many symbolic foods and other items, and displayed in homes and businesses. Later, the tradition of eating *ozoni*, or *mochi* soup, on New Year's morning, began. Because *mochi* is considered good luck, it is also part of other festive occasions including weddings, children's festivals, housewarmings, special birthdays, and other happy celebrations. Though there are many theories, *mochi* is considered a good luck symbol, because of its round, never-ending shape (like a wedding band), its sticky consistency (which symbolizes a family or a couple who will always "stick together"), and the sound of the word, (the verb *mochimasu* means "to have or possess," suggesting wealth). Also, rice in any form is traditionally considered a symbol of prosperity in Japan. *Mochi* can be prepared in a variety of ways. It can be eaten plain, in soups, grilled, fried, flavored with various toppings or, most commonly, filled with sweetened black bean paste.