

Conversational Kiribati

Tekonnang Timee^{1), 2)}

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Basic Expressions

Kiribati	English
Mauri.	Hello.
Ko uara?	How are you?
Ko rabwa, I marurung.	Thank you, I'm fine.
Ao ngkoe, ko uara?	And you, how are you?
I marurung naba, ko rabwa.	I'm fine also, thank you.
Antai aram?	What is your name?
Arau ...	My name is ...
Ao ngkoe antai aram?	And you, what is your name?
Kaain ia ngkoe?	Where are you from?
Ngai kaain ...	I'm from ...
Antai aran tamam?	What is your father's name?
Antai aran tinam?	What is your mother's name?
Iraua am ririki?	How old are you?
Ko mamaeka ia?	Where do you live?
A maeka tinau ma tamau I ...	My mother and father live in ...
Iai temanna tariu ao mwanau.	I have a brother and a sister.

Dialogue 1: Talking on the phone/ Te maroro iaon te tareboon

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Mauri.	Person 1: Hello.
Person 2: Mauri.	Person 2: Hi.
Person 1: Tera ae ko karaoia?	Person 1: What are you doing?
Person 2: Akea, bwa te tamnei. Ao ngkoe tera ae ko karaoia?	Person 2: Nothing, watching a movie. And you, what are you doing?
Person 1: Akea naba, bon te aoriori.	Person 1: Nothing too, just relaxing.
Person 1: Ngaia ngaia.	Person 1: Okay.
Person 2: Tiabo moa.	Person 2: Good bye.
Person 1: Tiabo.	Person 1: Bye.

Dialogue 2: Meeting a friend on the road/ Te kaitibo ma raoraom inanon te kawai

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Mauri.	Person 1: Hello.
Person 2: Mauri.	Person 2: Hi.
Person 1: Ko na aera?	Person 1: Where are you going?
Person 2: N na nako n tebotebo i taari. Ao ngkoe ko na bonakea?	Person 2: I'm going for a swim in the sea. And you, where are you going?
Person 1: N na nako n takakaro.	Person 1: I'm going to play.
Person 1: Tiabo moa.	Person 1: Good bye.
Person 2: Tiabo.	Person 2: Bye.

Dialogue 3: Conversing with your neighbor/ Te maroro ma kaain rarikim

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Kam a oki?	Person 1: Are you coming back?
Person 2: Eang.	Person 2: Yes.
Person 1: Kam bo maia?	Person 1: Where have you been?
Person 2: Ti bo man te botaki.	Person 2: We've gone to the party.
Person 1: Ao e uara?	Person 1: How was it?
Person 2: E rangi ni kaunga bwa e mwaiti te amwarake ao te mwaie.	Person 1: It fun because there's plenty of food.
Person 1: Kam maiu!	Person 1: You must have enjoyed it.
Person 2: Eang ngaia anne.	Person 2: Yes, you're right.

Dialogue 4: Talking to daddy/ Ko kataetaea tamam

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Mauri tamau	Person 1: Hi daddy.
Person 2: Mauri natiu	Person 2: Hello my child.
Person 1: Ko oki ni mwakuri?	Person 1: Are you coming back from work?
Person 2: Eang I a oki	Person 2: Yes, I am.
Person 1: E uara am mwakuri tamau?	Person 1: How's work daddy?
Person 2: Ko rabwa natiu, e tikiraoui.	Person 2: Thank you my child, it's awesome.

Dialogue 5: Talking to your neighbor/ Te taetae ma kaain rarikim

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Kamwa matauninga.	Person 1: Excuse me
Person 2: E mwaawa. Nakomai motirawa.	Person 2: No problem, you can pass. Come and rest.
Person 1: E rarabwa, bwa ti a kawaekoa.	Person 1: Thank you, we are rushing.
Person 2: Kam nang bo nakea?	Person 2: Where are you going?
Person 1: Ti na nakon te marae ni wanikiba.	Person 1: We are going to the airport.
Person 2: Ngaia ngaia, ti a manga bo n te oki.	Person 2: Okay, see you later.
Person 1: Tiabo n te oki.	Person 1: See you.

Dialogue 6: Asking for lunch/ Ko ongora te katawanou

Kiribati	English
Child: E a mwai te amwarake?	Child: Is the food ready?
Mother: E a kan mwai.	Mother: It almost done.
Child: I a baki.	Child: I'm hungry.
Mother: Ngaia. E mwai ao I a itia naba kanam.	Mother: Okay, once it done then I'll serve you.
Child: Tera am kuuka?	Child: What are you cooking?
Mother: Te ikanibong ae tinimaki, te mai ao te raiti.	Mother: Grilled red snapper, breadfruit and rice.
Child: Ai kangkangira naba.	Child: Very delicious.

Dialogue 7: Talking to your neighbor/ Te taetae ma kaain rarikim

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Ko utimwaaka, ko na bobwai?	Person 1: You woke up early, are you going to the store?
Person 2: Eang.	Person 2: Yes.
Person 1: E a uki te titoa?	Person 1: Is the store open?
Person 2: Aingkam.	Person 2: Don't know.
Person 1: Weteai ngkana e uki, taiaoka.	Person 1: Call me if it opens, please.
Person 2: Ngaia, tanningaai ikai.	Person 2: Okay, wait for me here.
Person 1: Ko rabwa, I a tanningaiko.	Person 1: Thank you, I'm waiting for you.

Dialogue 8: Asking for what to do next/ Ko ongora tera ae e na karaoaki imwiina.

Kiribati	English
Child: Tera ae ko na karaoia imwiina?	Child: What are you going to do next?
Mother: I kan tebotebo.	Mother: I want to take a bath.
Child: Ko aki mariri?	Child: Aren't you feeling cold?
Mother: I aki. I bueroro.	Mother: No, I'm feeling hot.
Child: I a kanoa tebokam?	Child: Can I fetch water for your bath?
Mother: Aue! ai rabwara natiu.	Mother: Wow! Thank you my child.
Child: Akea te kangaanga.	Child: No problem.

Dialogue 9: Inside the restaurant/ Inanon te tabo n amwarake

Kiribati	English
Customer: Mauri. I kan otana kanau.	Customer: Hi, I want to order my food.
Waitress: Mauri naba. Aio te beba n ota ma nooria. Aran te amwarake aikana n te atai. Ao booia akana a oti n te maing n te taibora aio.	Waitress: Hello. This is the menu, so check it. Names of food are on the right. And prices are shown on the left of this table.
Customer: Tera ae e riki nakon ami boo. A bon rang booraoi. Akea riki ae e bobuaka?	Customer: What happened to your prices, they seem so cheap. Don't you have expensive ones?
Waitress: Ko bon koaua?	Waitress: Are you serious?
Customer: I manikangare. Taiaoka bwai aio nambwan kanau.	Customer: I'm kidding. Please, this is the number of my order.
Waitress: Ngaia. Akea te kangaanga. Tanninga tabeua te miniti.	Waitress: Okay. No problem. Wait for few minutes.
Customer: Ko a taiaoka naba ni karina nimau te ran teuana n au ota.	Customer: Can you please add some water in my order for my drink.
Waitress: Ngaia.	Waitress: Sure.

Dialogue 10: Asking for direction/ Te titiraki ibukin te kawai

Kiribati	English
Person 1: Ko tara ni kua. Ko na nakea?	Person 1: You look tired. Where are you going?
Person 2: N na nakon te onnaoraki. E nga ngkoa kawaina?	Person 2: I am going to the hospital. Where are the routes to take?
Person 1: Aa, ngaia. Ti menan te kawai aio? Ko na kaineta kawai nako eta ao ko bwakee raoi n te moan kawai ane e mena i ataim. Rinnako n te kawai anne ao ane ko na noora moa te reirei. Te onnaoraki ane e mena i maeaona. E rang mataata.	Person 1: Oh, ok. We are at this route. You have to go straight up and turn to the first route on your left. Go through that road and you will see the school first. The hospital is on the west of it. It's very clear.
Person 2: Kanga e a rang kaminomino.	Person 2: It seems complicated.
Person 1: E aki, tii anganai am beba bwa n na kaotia nakoim.	Person 1: No, just give me your paper, I will show it.
Person 2: Ko rang rarabwa.	Person 2: Thank you very much.
Person 1: Tekeraoi kanoan am bong.	Person 1: Have a good day.
Person 2: Ngkoe naba.	Person 2: You too.

Dialogue 11: Talking inside the clinic/ Te taetae i nanon te kiriniki

Kiribati	English
Nurse: Tera ae I kona ni buokiko iai?	Nurse: How can I help you?
Patient: I aoraki	Patient: I'm sick.
Nurse: Tera am kangaanga?	Nurse: What's wrong with you?
Patient: E maraki atu ao I taanoi naba.	Patient: I have a headache and I'm dizzy too.
Nurse: Ai maanra ngkoe n aoraki?	Nurse: How long have you suffered from that sickness?
Patient: Man ngkebong.	Patient: Since last night.
Nurse: Ko kainnanoia bwa ko na tuoaki. Kanoa te boma aio.	Nurse: You need to have a medical check. Fill in this form.
Patient: Ngaia, ko rabwa.	Patient: Sure, thank you.

Dialogue 12: Asking for umbrella during a rainy day/ Tangiran te kiaba n tain te karau.

Kiribati	English
Child: E na bwaka te karau?	Child: Is it going to rain?
Mother: Eang ma kawaekoako.	Mother: Yes, so walk fast.
Child: Ko aki kabooa au kiaba?	Child: Can you buy me an umbrella?
Mother: E aki koro boona.	Mother: I can't afford.
Child: Ao ngkanne? N nang mwaimwai!	Child: And then? I'll get wet!
Mother: Ko aki kona bwa ti na ibuobuoki.	Mother: You're not. We'll share.
Child: I tangira au kiaba i bukin te kakarau.	Child: I want my own umbrella for rainy days.