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JUL JUL

Te Taetae ni Kiribati

Kiribati Language Week

PACIFIC
LANGUAGE
WEEKS

20 
 **22**



 Ministry for
**Pacific
Peoples**
Te Manatū mō ngā Iwi o te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa

Te taetae ni Kiribati | Kiribati Language



The Kiribati Alphabet consists of 13 letters.

The Vowels have the same pronunciation as other Pacific Languages including Te Reo Māori (Maori Language).

Special Consonants

Nasals - M N Ng

Like the vowels, the nasal sounds may also occur lengthened, which may provide some difficulty for English speakers.

This is another area in which spelling systems do not agree, often failing to indicate the additional length. For the most part these sounds are similar to those occurring in English.

In the **'NG'** consonant, we can start, end, and use it in the middle of a word. E.g. **Ngare** (laugh), **'kangkang'** (delicious) and **'eng'** (yes). In the English language, **NG** is used in and at the end of a word. E.g. **'singing'** and **'sing'** but never start a word with **NG** except for nouns.

R - To pronounce the 'r' we don't roll our tongue

T - When an 'l' is added to a 'T' and becomes a 'Ti', 'Ti' will be pronounced as 'si' as in 'sing'. Kiribati is pronounced 'Key-reh-ba-si' (pronouncing 'r' without rolling the tongue and 'ba' pronounced as 'ba' in 'bank')

W - This consonant is only used with the vowels 'a, e, i' but not 'o and u'

Vowels	Short Sound	Long Sound
A	Sound in 'ask' and 'dark'	March
E	Sound in 'elephant' and 'enter'	Egg
I	Sound in 'pit' and 'in'	Meat
O	Sound in 'ocean' and 'oat'	Door
U	Sound in 'blue' and 'you'	Moon

The consonants consist of 8 letters

M as in 'number'	N as in 'in'	NG as in 'sing'
B as in 'be'	K as in 'key'	R as in 'tree'
T as in 'sea'	W as in 'we'	



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Additional Consonants

mw	mwa	mwe	mwi
bw	bwa	bwe	bwi

These consonants are used to differentiate the sounds in:

'maku' (scared) 'umwa' (kitchen) 'bangke' (bank)
'bwatere' (dance).

As in English 'ma' in 'madam' 'mwa' in 'mother' 'ba' in 'badminton' 'bwa' in 'bar'.

Please note that in some parts of the Kiribati islands, these consonants cannot be used with the 'o' and 'u' vowels.

Kiribati Alphabet / A na man ni koroboki Kiribati

A E I O U

M, N, NG, B, K, R, T, W (**Nasals M N NG**)

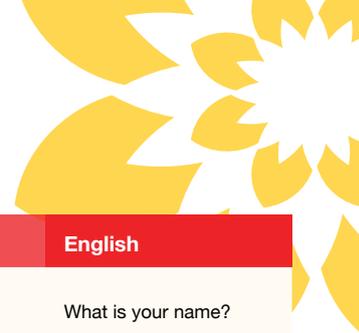
MW, BW

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Taeka aika a bonganga | Useful words



Kiribati	English
Mauri	Greetings / Hello
Kam na bane ni mauri	Greetings Everyone
Ti a bo	Goodbye
Ti a bo, tekeraoi te mwananga	Goodbye, have a safe trip / nice trip
Taiaoka	Please
Ko rabwa (singular) Kam rabwa (plural)	Thank you
Kabwara te bure	Sorry
Ko matauninga	Excuse me

Kiribati	English
Antai aram?	What is your name?
Arau _____	My name is _____
Kaain ia ngkoe?	Where are you from?
Ngai kaain _____	I am from _____
Ko mwakuri ia?	Where do you work?
I mwakuri i (I makuri n te _____) _____	I work at _____
Ko uara? Kam uara?	How are you (singular)? How are you (dual / plural)?
Ko rabwa, I marurung (I marurung ko rabwa)	I am fine, thank you



Taeka aika a bonganga | Useful words



Kiribati	English
Ko a tia n amwarake? Ti a nako n amwarake	Have you eaten? Let's go eat
Kabwara te bure ni iremwen te reitaki rikaaki...	Apologies for the delayed response...
Ni kaineti ma au meeri are ma i mwaina...	As per my previous email...
I kukurei ni maroroakinna	I am happy to discuss
Te tai ni kamarurung!	It's gym time!
Ko a reitaki nakoio n te tarebon / Ko a tareboniai	Call me
Tekeraoi n am tokanikai!	Congratulations!
Te Atua n tangira	God of love

Kiribati	English
Mataniwi / Te Unimwane	Leader / The Elder
Mitinare	Church Minister
Te nati / te ataei	Child
Te karo / te tama	Father
Te tina	Mother
Tarim (Your sister, 'you' being a 'girl')	Sister
Tarina (Her sister)	
Tariia (Their sister, 'them' being 'girls')	



Taeka aika a bonganga | Useful words



Kiribati	English
Tarira (Our sister, 'us' being 'girls')	
Mwanem (Your sister 'you' being a 'boy')	
Mwanena (His sister)	
Mwaneia (Their sister, 'they' being 'boys')	Sister
Mwanera (Our sister, 'us' being 'boys')	
Tarim (Your brother, 'you' being a 'boy')	Brother
Tarina (His brother)	

Kiribati	English
Tariia (Their brother, 'them' being 'boys')	
Tarira (Our brother, 'us' being 'boys')	
Mwanem (Your brother, 'you' being a 'girl')	
Mwanena (Her brother)	Mother
Mwaneia (Their brother, 'they' being 'girls')	Sister
Mwanera (Our brother, 'us' being 'girls')	
Raoraom	Your friends



Faith is an important aspect of the Kiribati culture.

Below is a short prayer and hymn that can be used at the start of your day, to open a meeting or small gathering.

Tataro | Prayer

Kiribati	English
Ti na tataro	Let us pray
Tamara are i karawa	Our heavenly father
Ti bubutiko am kakabwaia n te wiki aei	We ask for your blessings this week
Nakoira n tatabemanira nako	To each and every one of us
Ti tataro n aran Iesu. Amen	In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Anene | Hymn

Kiribati	English
E tangirai Atuu	My God loves me
Ao I nori kamimi ni kabane	And all the wonders I see
E raititi nei Wirara n au winto	The rainbow shines through my window
E tangirai Atuu	My God loves me

