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JUL JUL

# Te Taetae ni Kiribati

Kiribati Language Week

PACIFIC  
LANGUAGE  
WEEKS

20  22



“Ribanan, karikirakean ao kateimatoan  
ara katei ma ara taetae ni Kiribati”

NURTURE, ENHANCE AND SUSTAIN THE  
KIRIBATI LANGUAGE AND CULTURE!



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), '**kang**kang' (delicious) and '**eng**' (yes). In the English language, **NG** is used in and at the end of a word. E.g. '**sing**ing' and '**sing**' but never start a word with **NG** except for nouns.

**R** - In te taetae ni Kiribati we roll the letter 'r'. For example 'Kiribati' is pronounced as 'g-i-dd-y-b-a-s'.

**K** - The letter 'k' is softened to a hard 'g' sound, as in 'gift'. Again, this is demonstrated well in the word 'Kiribati'.

**T** - The letter 't' makes a 'd' sound like when we say the word please - 'taiaoka' the english phoneme equivalent would be 'd-ay-o-g-a'.

**I** - When an 'i' follows a 't', it changes the 't' to an 's' sound.

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

## The consonants consist of 8 letters

<b>M</b> as in 'number'	<b>N</b> as in 'in'	<b>NG</b> as in 'sing'
<b>B</b> as in 'be'	<b>K</b> as in 'gift'	<b>R</b> as in 'tree'
<b>T</b> as in 'sea'	<b>W</b> as in 'we'	

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## Additional Consonants

<b>mw</b>	<b>mwa</b>	<b>mwe</b>	<b>mwi</b>
<b>bw</b>	<b>bwa</b>	<b>bwe</b>	<b>bwi</b>

### These consonants are used to differentiate the sounds in:

'maku' (scared) 'umwa' (kitchen) 'bangke' (bank)  
'bwaterere' (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 bongana | Useful words

Kiribati	English
<b>Mauri</b>	Greetings / Hello
<b>Kam na bane ni mauri</b>	Greetings Everyone
<b>Ti a bo</b>	Goodbye
<b>Ti a bo, tekeraoi te mwananga</b>	Goodbye, have a safe trip / nice trip
<b>Taiaoka</b>	Please
<b>Ko rabwa (singular) Kam rabwa (plural)</b>	Thank you
<b>Kabwara te bure</b>	Sorry
<b>Ko matauninga</b>	Excuse me
<b>Antai aram?</b>	What is your name?
<b>Arau ____</b>	My name is ____
<b>Kaain ia ngkoe?</b>	Where are you from?
<b>Ngai kaain ____</b>	I am from ____
<b>Ko mwakuri ia?</b>	Where do you work?
<b>I mwakuri i (I makuri n te ____ ) ____</b>	I work at ____
<b>Ko uara? Kam uara?</b>	How are you (singular)? How are you (dual / plural)?

Kiribati	English
<b>Ko rabwa, I marurung (I marurung ko rabwa)</b>	I am fine, thank you
<b>Ko a tia n amwarake? Ti a nako n amwarake</b>	Have you eaten? Let's go eat
<b>Kabwara te bure ni iremwen te reitaki rikaaki...</b>	Apologies for the delayed response...
<b>Ni kaineti ma au meeri are ma i mwaina...</b>	As per my previous email...
<b>I kukurei ni maroroakinna</b>	I am happy to discuss
<b>Te tai ni kamarurung!</b>	It's gym time!
<b>Ko a reitaki nako iu n te tarebon / Ko a tareboniai</b>	Call me
<b>Tekeraoi n am tokanikai!</b>	Congratulations!
<b>Te Atua n tangira</b>	God of love
<b>Te karo/te Tama</b>	Father
<b>Mitinare/Minita</b>	Church Minister
<b>Te Tama</b>	Father/Priest (Catholic)
<b>Te nati/te ataei</b>	Child
<b>Naati/ataei</b>	Children

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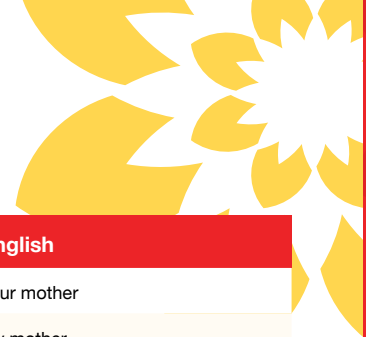


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# Taeka aika a bongana | Family Words



Kiribati	English
Tamara	Our father
Tamau	My father
Tamami	their fathers
Tamaia	their father
Kaaro nakon te nati te mwane/ aine	Parents to children; boy/girl
Natiu	My children
Natiu te aine	My daughter
Natiu te mwane	My son
Natim	Your child
Naati/Natimi	Children/Your children
Te Tina	Mother
Tinaia	Their mothers
Tinara	Our mother
Tiina	Mothers

Kiribati	English
Tinami	Your mother
Tinau	My mother
<b>Boy to girl/Girl to boy</b>	
Mwanem	your brother/Your sister
Mwanera	Our brother/Our sister
Mwaneu	My brother/My sister
Mwanena	His sister/Her brother
Mwaneia	Their brother/Their sister
<b>Boy to boy/Girl to girl</b>	
Tariu	My sister/My brother
Tarim	Your brother/Your sister
Tariia	Their brother/Their sister
Taari	Sisters/Brothers
Tarimi	Your sisters/Your brothers
Tarina	Her sister/His brother

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# Faith is an important aspect of the Kiribati culture.

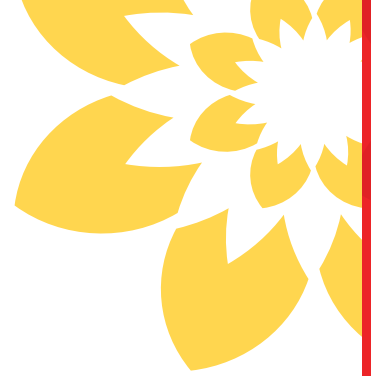
Below is a short prayer and hymn that can be used at the start of your day, to open a meeting or small gathering.

## 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



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