

Everyday language

ENGLISH	TE TAETAETAE NI KIRIBATI
Hello	Mauri
Good morning	Mauri n te ingabong aio
Greetings everyone	Kam na bane ni mauri
I'm pleased to meet you	I rang kukurei ni kaitibo ma ngkoe
Goodbye	Ti a bo
How are you (singular)?	Ko uara?
How are you (dual / plural)?	Kam uara?
I am well, thank you	I marurung, ko rabwa
I am tired	I kua
I am sick	I aoraki
I am so-so	Kanga i bon raoiroi
I am happy	I kukurei
And yourself?	Ao ngkoe?
See you later	Ti a bo imwina
See you tomorrow	Ti a bo ningabong
See you next week	Ti a bo n te wiki ae e na roko
Blessings	Kakabwaia
Good luck	Tekeraoi
Call me	Reitaki nakoii
Send me a message	Kanakoa nakoii am rongorongong
Please	Taiaoka

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Thank you (singular)	Ko rabwa
Thank you (dual / plural)	Kam rabwa
You're welcome	Teraoi
Excuse me	Ko matauninga
Sorry	Kabwara te bure
Have you eaten?	Ko a tia n amwarake?
Come and eat with me	Nakomai amwarake ma ngai
Thank you for the food	Ko rabwa ibukin te amwarake
Yes	Eng
No	Tiaki
Have a good day	Tekeraoi am bong
Have a good week	Tekeraoi am wiki
Have a good weekend	Tekeraoi am wikeen
Have a good holiday	Tekeraoi am motirawa
Merry Christmas	Tekeraoi n te Kiritimati
Happy New Year	Tekeraoi n te Ririki ae e Boou
Happy birthday	Tekeraoi n am koronririki
Happy Kiribati Language Week	Tekeraoi ni Wikin te Taetae ni Kiribati
Lots of love	Te tangira ae e bati

Words of encouragement

ENGLISH	TE TAETAETAE NI KIRIBATI
Great work	E rang tamaroa te mwakuri
You can do it	Ko kona ni karaoia
Congratulations	Tekeraoi n am tokanikai
All the best	Ko na tekeraoi
Stay strong	Kakorakorako n taai nako
Give it a go	Kataa are ko konaa
Excellent	E rang riaon te tamaroa
Well done	E tamaroa
God is good	E raoiroi te Atua

Relationship-building

ENGLISH	TE TAETAETAE NI KIRIBATI
What is your name?	Antai aram?
My name is _____	Arau bon / Arau bon nei* _____
Where are you from?	Ko roko ma ia?
I am from _____	I roko ma i _____
Where do you live?	Ko mamaeka ia?
I live in _____	I mamaeka i _____

**see cultural note*



Email language

ENGLISH	TE TAETAETAE NI KIRIBATI
I hope you're well	Au kantananga bwa ko rang marurung
Thank you for your email	Ko rabwa n am emeeri
Thank you for your response	Ko rabwa n am kaeka
Thank you for your clarification	Ko rabwa ibukin am kamataata
Thank you for your help	Ko rabwa n am ibuobuoki
That's a good question	E rang tikiraoi te titiraki anne
I will come back to you tomorrow	I a manga okiriko ningabong tomorrow
I will come back to you next week	I a manga okiriko n te wiki ae e na roko
I will come back to you soon	I a manga okiriko n te tai ae e waekoa
Apologies for the delayed response	Te kabwarabure ae e bati ibukin te iremwe ni kaeka
As per my previous email...	Ni kaineti ma au emeeri are mai mwaina
Please see attached document	Taiaoka nora te taokimenti ae e kaairaki
As per our conversation...	Ni kaineti ma ara maroro ...
Happy to discuss	I kukurei ni kabwarabwara
I look forward to your response	I rang ingainga nakon am kaeka response
I look forward to seeing you	I rang ingainga ni kan noriko
Kind regards / Cheers	Ko aitau / Tekeraoi

Talking about work

ENGLISH	TE TAETAETAE NI KIRIBATI
Where do you work?	Ko mwakuri ia?
I work at _____	I mwakuri n te _____
I have worked here for _____ months / years	I a tia ni mwakuri ikai n te maan ae _____ namwakaina / ririki
What is your job?	Tera am mwakuri ae ko karaeia?
I am a _____	I bon _____
Teacher	Te tia reirei
Student	Ataein te reirei
Nurse	Te Neeti
Doctor	Te Taokita
Librarian	Te tia Kawakin Booki
Manager	Te Manatia
Musician	Te tia Katangitang
Police officer	Te Bureitiman
Advisor	Te tia Boutoka
Where do you study?	Ko kamatebwai ia?
I study at high school / I study at the University of _____	I kamatebwai n te kauarinan / I kamatebwai n te Reirei ae e Rietata ae arana _____

Numbers

0 Akea	1 Teuana	2 Uoua	3 Teniua	4 Aua	5 Nimaua	6 Onoua	7 Itiua	8 Waniuia	9 Ruaiua
10 Tebwina	11 Tebwi ma teuana	12 Tebwi ma uoua	13 Tebwi ma teniua	14 Tebwi ma auua	15 Tebwi ma nimaua				
16 Tebwi ma onoua	17 Tebwi ma itiua	18 Tebwi ma waniuia	19 Tebwi ma ruaiua	20 Uabwi					



Proverbs

Kana matan te noo

Meaning Eat the eye of the spectators, or in other words do not be consumed by the eyes of others but stand firm in who you are.

Application This phrase reflects a collective cultural belief in resilience, inner strength, and the importance of staying true to oneself despite external pressures.

Te kua are i marawa

Meaning The whale is in the ocean.

Application Do not grow weary. Keep working together, support one another, and trust that your efforts will lead to success. This reflects a collective belief in perseverance, where strength comes from continuing the journey even when the destination feels distant.

Te reirei bon te matau ae kookona

Meaning Education is a magic hook and the key to knowledge.

Application Just as a fishing hook catches food from the ocean, education can help access opportunities. This reflects the strong economic and cultural value of fishing for i-Kiribati.

Cultural note

Nei: the role of women

In Kiribati culture, the word *nei* is placed before a female's name to indicate that she is a girl or a woman. When someone introduces themselves using *Arau bon nei* _____ followed by her name, it clearly identifies her as female.

The word *nei* also carries a deeper cultural meaning. It is associated with the Kiribati concept of a lake or pond, symbolising calmness, peace, and beauty. Traditionally, women are encouraged to embody these qualities by being gentle, respectful, and peaceful in their behaviour.

In many Kiribati families and communities, women are regarded as important protectors of the home and contributors to family wellbeing. They are encouraged to avoid harmful situations and to help create a safe and harmonious environment. Just as a calm lake brings beauty and tranquility to its surroundings, women are often viewed as bringing peace, strength, and beauty to their families and communities. This cultural understanding highlights the respect and value traditionally given to women in Kiribati society.

Prayers

TE TAETAETAE NI KIRIBATI	ENGLISH
Tataro Ti na tataro Tamara are i karawa Ti bubutiko am kakabwaia n te wiki aei Nakoira n tatabemanira nako Ti tataro n aran lesu Amen	Prayer Let us pray Our heavenly father We ask for your blessings this week To each and every one of us In Jesus' name we pray Amen

Te tataro ni katituaraoa te amwarake

Tamara ae te Atua
Ti kaitauko ibukin te amwarake aei.
Ti butiko kakabwaii baia taan atauraoia, ao anganira te korakora ao te marurung nakon rabwatara.

Prayer to bless food

Father God
We thank you for this food.
Please bless the hands that prepared it and let it give strength and health to our bodies.

He Kaikōhau

Below is a traditional Te Reo Māori karakia or kaikōhau used in the Aotearoa context.

Nau mai ngā hua. Nau mai ngā pai. Nau mai kia nui. Kia hāwera ai. Tihei mauri ora.

A kaikōhau is an expression of hope welcoming all things positive – including bountiful harvests, good health and work or study achievements. It can be used during Matariki celebrations as you prepare for the new year ahead, before you share a meal, or to open or close a meeting. Here is an adaptation of this kaikōhau in te taetae ni Kiribati, with an English translation.

Butimwai baika a tia ni karikirakeaki

Welcome all that has grown

Butimwai baika a tamaroa

Welcome all that is good

Ke a na kamwaitaki riki mwaitiia

May it be plentiful

Ao ni karawataki riki mwaitiia

And in abundance

Ni karekea te kakabwaia i nanon maiura

Lifeforce blessings

