

GREETINGS

Lesson One

Objective: The goal of this lesson is to acquaint you with the greetings in use in Kiribati today, and when it is appropriate to use them. By the end of the lesson you should be able to greet someone in a variety of situations, and give appropriate responses.

**Translation
of Dialogue:**

Greetings

Jim: Hello!

John: Hello!

Jim: How are you?

John: Thank you, I'm fine.
And you, how are you?

Jim: I'm fine also, thank you.

Activities: Memorize both parts of the dialogue. Practice initiating the sequence and responding to someone else's offered greetings, reversing roles periodically.

**Meaning of
the words:**

Nanon te taeka

ko na mauri!	greetings, ('you will be well')
uara	be how? (interrogative word)
marurung	good health
ko rab'a	thank you
naba	also

TE KAMAURI

Reirei Teuana



Dialogue for
Memorization:

Te Kamauri

Tim: Ko na mauri!

Tiaon: Mauri!

Tim: Ko uara?

Tiaon: Ko rab'a, I marurung.
Ao ngkoe, ko uara?

Tim: I marurungi naba, ko rab'a.

Note:

Unlike the English greeting "hello", ko na mauri is generally used only for a first meeting, or after some time has passed since the greeters have last met. It is often abbreviated to a simple Mauri!

When meeting in passing, as on the road, Kiribati will more often use expressions like:

<u>Ko na aera?</u>	Where are you going?
<u>Ko na nakea?</u>	Where are you going?
<u>Ko na toki iia?</u>	Where will you stop?
<u>Ko na boo nakea?</u>	Where are you going?

Or if the person is known to be going in the direction of his home:

<u>Ko nako maiia?</u>	Where are you coming from?
<u>Ko a oki?</u>	You're returning?
<u>Ko boo maiia?</u>	Where are you coming from?

Supplementary Activities:

1. Using the additional vocabulary items listed on the next page, create new dialogues appropriate to different times of day. Vary your role to be initiator and responder.
2. Change these dialogues into ones appropriate for situations where it is not the first meeting of the day.

Suggestions for further use:

Take a walk through the community, trying out appropriate greetings on the people you meet. Make note of their responses, and report any new additions to your greeting repertoire.

Supplementary	te b'akantaa ai	this afternoon
Materials:	te tairiki ai	this evening/tonight
	te ingaabong ai	this morning

With the addition of the linking particle *n*, these phrases can be added to (ko na) mauri or ko uara, providing more time specific greetings. Similarly:

te bong ai	today
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For example: Ko uara n te bong ai?

Modification of responses can include:

rangi ni	very
bati ni	much
aki	not
teutana	not bad, a little

For example: I aki rangi ni marurung.

Or: A: Ko uara?

B: Teutana.

Additional Note:

Ko is the singular form of the second person pronoun, in the form used before a verb. When more than one person is being addressed, the plural form kam is used: Kam na mauri!.

Ngkoe is also a pronoun standing for "you", but is used in places other than before a verb, such as for a one word answer to a question.