

HOW LONG?

Lesson Six

Objectives:

This lesson will teach you something about time - questions as to how long you've been somewhere, names of the days of the week and months of the year, and similar expressions. You will also get some additional practice with the numbers.

Activities:

Study the dialogue, paying special attention to the way of asking "how long". Using the calendar, create a new set of questions to direct to your class, along the lines of: 'I arrived here on Tuesday, March 3, and I'll be leaving the 2nd of April. How long is my stay?', etc. (In Kiribati, of course!)

Translation of Dialogue:

How Long?

Maria: How do you do sir. I think this is the first time we've met. How long have you been here?

Paul: It's true. I just arrived here last Friday. Today is Sunday, so I've just been here for three days.

Maria: And how long are you going to stay here?

Paul: Not long. I'll be here until the month of March. Maybe I'll leave in the first week of March. Perhaps about three more weeks.

Note:

In English, when giving the date, we use the ordinal numbers - the first of March, the third of June, August fifth. In Kiribati, however, the cardinal series is used, March 4 = aua ni Maati (four of March), April 17 = tebwi ma itiu a n Eberi (seventeen of April), without the article.

MAANRA?

Reirei Onoua

<u>MAATI</u>							<u>EBERI</u>						
Moanibong	Kaunabong	Katenibong	Kaabe	Kanimabong	Kaonobong	Taabati	Moanibong	Kaunabong	Katenibong	Kaabe	Kanimabong	Kaonobong	Taabati
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

Dialogue
for Study:

Maanra?

Maria: Nao, ko na mauri. I taku b'a aio ara moan tai ni kaaitiboo. Ai maanra ngkoe ikai?

Bauro: E koaua. I roko ikai n te Kanimabong aei. Te bong aei bon te Taabati are nanona b'a ai tib'a tenibong au bong ikai.

Maria: Ao a na maanra ngkoe n tiku ikai?

Bauro: I aki maan. N na tiku ikai ni karokoa te nam'akaina ae Maati. Tao N na kiitana ikai ni moan wiikin Maati. Tao ai ti teniua riki te wiiki.

Translation
of Supplementary
Vocabulary:

yesterday
today
tomorrow

this coming
last

day
week
month
year

Note:

The days of the week and the months should need no translation. Notice the construction of the names of the days. They are the ordinals before the word 'day': the first day, the second day, etc. The word for Sunday is Taabati = Sabbath. (Be careful of Tuesday, the second day- it's Kauabong, not Kauouabong!) The names of the months are taken from the English.

Supplementary
Activities:

Using this new vocabulary, extend and expand the dialogue you have studied by writing a new one. You might try presenting a narrative and following it up with time questions relating to the content. It's important to become quickly familiar with the days of the week and months. Memorize them and practice them regularly.

Outside
Activities:

The question of 'how long' is one that comes up frequently in conversation. Find out how long the people you meet have lived on the island, how long a visitor intends to stay, how long someone has been working on something, etc.

Supplementary Vocabulary:

ngkoananoa
n te bong aei
ningaabong

ae e na roko
ae e nako

te bong
te wiiki
te nam'akaina
te ririki

Bongin te wiiki:

Te Moanibong
Te Kauabong
Te Katenibong
Te Kaabong
Te Kanimabong
Te Kaonobong
Te Taabati

Te Nam'akaina:

Tianuare
Beberuare
Maati
Eberi
Meei
Tuun
Tuurai
Aokati
Tebetemb'a
Okitob'a
Nobemb'a
Ritemb'a

Additional Note:

Notice that bong may also be used as a numeral classifier, so that in the dialogue, three days = tenibong. See the grammar on numeral classifiers.