

CONVERSATION

Lesson Eleven

Objectives: This lesson will give you practice asking for the meanings of words, and also give you some idea of the importance of 'talking about talking' in Kiribati culture. By the end of the lesson you should be able to ask for the meaning of a word you don't know, and have learned a number of new words about language.

Activities: Study the Note and dialogue. An additional list of words related to speech in Kiribati is provided on the following pages. Practice your new question by asking your teacher for the meanings of some of these words. Keep track of your new vocabulary along with the regular lesson vocabulary, on the pages provided.

**Translation
of Dialogue:**

CONVERSATION

- Anna:** Please Paul, what's the meaning of the word 'conversation'?
- Paul:** That word is used when a group of people sit around talking to each other.
- Anna:** Are there other words similar to 'conversation'?
- Paul:** Yes, there's 'conferring', 'story-telling', 'sweet-talking', and many more words like that.
- Anna:** And what's the meaning of 'conferring'?
- Paul:** That word is used when a group of people gather together to discuss employment, promotion, or similar topics.

TE MAROOROO

Reirei Tebwi Ma Teuana

Dialogue
for Study:

Te Marooroo

- Aana: Taiaoka Bauro, teraa nanon te taeka ae 'marooroo'?
- Bauro: E kaboonganaaki te taeka anne ngkana a bootaki uoman aomata ke a m'aiti riki n taetae ni kawai temanna nakon temanna.
- Aana: Iai riki taeka tabeua aika titeboo nanoia ma te taeka ae 'marooroo'?
- Bauro: E eng, iai 'kaboowi', 'karaki', 'kareke-nano'; A bati riki taeka n aron akanne.
- Aana: Ao teraa nanon 'kaboowi'?
- Bauro: Te taeka anne e kaboonganaaki ngkana a bootaki tabeman aomata ni baairea taekan tao te mm'akuri ke te karikirake ke b'aai riki tabeua.

Taraia:

Te marooroo bon te moa ni b'ai ni maiuia kaaini Kiribati. Ngkana ti nooria ao a boni m'aiti taeka ake a konaa ni kab'arab'araa kaanga aror te taetae b'a e kangaa. Ngkana ti taraia aomata n te m'aneaba ao ti konaa n ataia b'a naake a rangi n atatai n aron te taetae ao naake a atongaki b'a taan rabakau n ootoo a konaa n anganaki aia tabo ae kaanga a na rine riki iai ibuakoia aomata.

Note: (Cultural):

Conversation is of great importance in the life of Kiribati people. If we look, we can find many words which describe their ways of speaking. When we see the people in the maneaba, we realize that those who are skilled in speaking, and those who are said to be skillful composers, are given positions of honor.

Translation
of Additional
Dialogue:

Anna: And story-telling?

Paul: That one's almost like conversation, except that there's the story, maybe from a book or the news, told from one person to another or to the group.

Anna: That's clear. How about 'sweet-talking'?

Paul: That's used for a conversation between a man and a woman, especially when the man's in love with her.

Anna: Thanks very much. I've just learned a lot about Kiribati. You're very skilled at translating the meanings of words.

Paul: I'm really not very skilled - just a little.

Outside
Activities:

Utilize your opportunities for vocabulary building. Carry a small notebook to keep track of new acquisitions. Memory is notoriously short under some circumstances, so you'll usually be happy to have written it down.

Additional
Activities:

Study the additional dialogue. You should now be able to create similar dialogues using the new words you have learned from your teacher and the accompanying list. Write out a new dialogue, using meanings for new words and present it to your class.

Additional
Dialogue:

Aana: Ao karaki?

Bauro: Anne boni kan titeboo ma marooro ma iai te karaki tao man te boki ke te rongorongo ae e taekinna temanna nakon temanna ke temanna nakoia aika a m'aiti.

Aana: E a oota anne, ao 'kareke-nano'?

Bauro: Te taeka anne e kaboonganaaki ioukin te mm'aane ao te aiine aika a marooro ngkana iai nanon te mm'aane iroun te aiine.

AANA: Ko bati n raba. E a bati riki rabakau n te taetae ni Kiribati. Ko rangi n rabakau ni kab'arab'arai nanon taeka.

Bauro: I aki bati n rabakau - ti teutana.

Additional
Vocabulary:

b'anaa taekēke

b'anaa buubura

b'anaa bangubangu - hollow, nasal voice

wiirikiriki

wiwitoka

wiitata

witokatoka

wiwitata

wiimatoa

wiikateke

wiirebwerebwe

taetae n aakoi

maningoongoo

b'aab'arantiko

kab'araria

manikangare

round, big
low, shrill voice (bw: clear, attractive voice)

gossip (ing) chatter box (ing) talkative