

IMPERATIVES - PART 2

Lesson 11

1. Imperatives formed with 'na'

a. First Person Plural

The formation of the imperative for the first person plural, "Let's _____!" is identical in structure to the future form, constructed with na ('will'):

Ti na nako.
We will go.

ti na nako!
Let's go!

Ti na am'arake.
We will eat.

Ti na am'arake!
Let's eat!

Context and expression serve to clarify the meanings.

Note: Another common way of forming this imperative is with a, the marker for incompleted action:

Ti na nako! = Ti a nako! = Let's go!

Ti na am'arake! = Ti a am'arake! = Let's eat!

b. Second Person

Second person imperatives (you) can also be formed by using the future form with na:

Ko na wene.
You will lie-down.

Ko na wene!
Lie down!

Kam na taetae.
You're going to talk.
you will talk

Kam na taetae!
Talk!

c. Negative imperatives with 'na aki'

When the future form is used as an imperative, the negative is formed in the same way as in a simple sentence, by inserting aki 'not' before the verb:

Ko na aki nako.
You will not go.

Ko na aki nako!
Don't go!

Ti na aki matuu.
We won't sleep.

Ti na aki matuu!
Let's not sleep!

2. Imperatives with 'ke'

A form of imperative sentence can be constructed by beginning a sentence with ke ('or'). This construction is limited to third person subjects in the present tense:

Ke e naako! OR HE GO!
Let him go! (It's alright if he goes.)

Ke a am'arake! OR THEM EAT!
Let them eat! (It's alright if they eat.)

(Note that the lengthened vowel form of the verb is used with ke constructions.)

LESSON 11

3. Taiaoka, butiiko

A form of softened imperative can be made by using taiaoka ('please'):

Taiaoka te ran.
 (DON'T-REFUSE) PLEASE THE WATER
 Please (let me have) some water.

Ko na taiaoka n aki nako.
 you will please|not go
 of
 Please don't go.

Equivalent to taiaoka in usage is butiiko:

I butiiko te ran.
 I BEG-YOU the water
 Please (let me have) some water.

4. Imperative Verbs

Two Kiribati verbs seem to be used uniquely in the imperative, both with the same sense:

Ngkaa!
 Kaamai!

Give (it to) me!
 "

(Note: Apparently in the speech of some older speakers these two can still be used as productive verbs: E ngkaa te boki. = He gave me the book.)

A. Change the following sentences into the first person plural imperative form ("Let's _____!"):

1. Ko nakon te titooa.
2. A karaoa te auti.
build
3. E korea arana.
write his name
4. I kunea te boki.
find book
5. Kam rin n te auti.
enter
6. E wetea te uninm'aane.
calls old man
7. A am'arake ni bootaki.
together
8. Ko kauka te mataroa.
open door
9. E karina ana reta.
posts
10. A toka iaon te kaibuke.
ride ship
11. A biri n te marae.
run field
12. E mooi.
drinks
13. Ko matuu.
sleep
14. A nako n akawa.
fishing
15. I uaua.
swim
16. E boob'ai.
shops
17. I teitei.
stand up
18. A nako Betio.
19. A anene.
sing
20. Ko ruo man te nii.
descend coconut tree

LESSON 11

B. Give a different imperative form for each of the following imperative sentences:

1. Tai nako!
go
2. Ko na wene!
lie down
3. Tai taetae!
talk
4. Kam na aki biri!
run
5. Tai kabooi kariki!
buy bread
6. Ko na kaina te mataroa!
close door
7. Tai kabaea!
tie
8. Ko na kab'araa au bure!
excuse me (my 'sin')
9. Kam na aki kaotia nakon neierei!
show it
10. Tai kaaki te boki ikai!
put here
11. Ko na aki tauai!
touch me
12. Ko na am'arake!
eat
13. Ko na korea iram!
cut your hair
14. Tai bakataea te m'ane!
waste money
15. Tai karaki nakoina!
tell stories to him
16. Kam na anai been!
give me coconuts
17. Kam na kanakoi amii boki!
send your books
18. Tai weteia!
call him
19. Ko na tai kaniai!
come closer
20. Kam na keemai!
move closer

C. Use ke to form sentences which respond to the following statements:

example - E kan nako.
He wants to go.

Ke e naako.
Let him go!

1. E kani mooi.
2. A kan tiku.
3. E kani wene.
4. E kani kiba.
5. E kan tei.
6. E kani biri.
7. E kan ongoraa.
8. E kan rin.
9. E kan roko.
10. E kan ruo.

D. Reform the following statements as requests, using taiaoka:

example - I tangira te ran.
I want some water.

Taiaoka te ran.
Please, some water.

Tai nako!
Don't go!

Ko na taiaoka n aki nako.
You will please not go.

1. I tangira te am'arake.
2. Tai butiai te boki!
ask me
3. I tangira te boki.
4. Tai matuu ikai!
5. I tangira te m'ane.
6. Tai bubuti te m'ane!
borrow
7. I tangira te ika.
8. Tai tuangai te b'ai aanne!
tell me thing that
9. I tangira te moko.
smoke
10. Tai taua au boki!
touch

LESSON 11

E. Reform the odd numbered sentences of Part D above using I butiiko:

example - I tangira te am'arake.
I want some food.

I butiiko te am'arake.
Please give me some food.

F. Translate the following into Kiribati: (to be written)

1. Buy the bread!

2. Please let me have the book.

3. Don't go!

4. Don't write the letter!

5. Let him eat the fish!

6. Let's sleep!

7. Lie down!

8. Don't go to the store!

9. Please give me some money.

10. Talk!

11. Enter the room!

12. Let her sleep!

13. Give it to me!

14. Please let me have some water.
