

SUBJECT PRONOUNS

Lesson 20

Almost all Kiribati sentences begin with a subject pronoun, which expresses the person (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and the number (singular, plural) of the subject:

	<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
1st	I, N	I	ti	we
2nd	ko	you	kam	you
3rd	e	he, she, it	a	they

Note that N is used in place of I, the first person singular subject pronoun ('I') when it precedes na (will) or nang (about to), the two future markers. All other times the form is I, which looks exactly like its English counterpart, except that it is pronounced ee, rhyming with 'me'. As in English, the first person singular pronoun is always capitalized, whether I or N. Remember also that the first person plural pronoun ti is pronounced like 'see'.

N na nako.

I a roko.

Ko kabooa te raiti.

E nakonako.

Ti orea te booro.

Kam wetea te kirii.

A takaakaro.

I will go.

I'm coming.

You bought the rice.

He's walking.

We hit the ball.

You (pl.) call the dog.

They are playing.

These subject pronouns are required even when there is an expressed subject noun or emphatic pronoun:

E nakonako teuaarei.

A takaakaro ataeinimm'aane.

That man is walking.

The boys are playing.

The subject pronoun always comes directly before the verb or verbal auxiliary. When the subject is expressed by a noun, the pronoun agrees with it completely as to person and number, almost as if the subject is repeated twice:

E nakonako teuaarei.
he walks that man

A takaakaro ataeinimm'aane.
they play boys

A. Insert the appropriate subject pronoun into the following (incomplete) sentences:

1. na roko ningaabong teuaarei.
will come tomorrow that man
2. na nako Betio ngai.
go to me
3. na tiku i Bairiki ngkoe.
stay you (sg.)
4. na nakon te m'aneaba aomata.
go to people
5. na roko te kaibuke ngkai.
come the ship now
6. na nako n akawa ngaira.
fishing us
7. na roko raora n tairiki.
our friends in the evening
8. na kabooa te kariki neierei.
but bread that woman
9. na nakon te titooa ngkamii.
store you (pl.)
10. tang te teei.
cries child
11. matuu ngai n te auti.
sleep me in the house
12. tam'arakea te nii ngkoe.
climb the coconut tree you (sg.)
13. oki tamau n akawa.
return my father from fishing
14. nako tariu n takaakaro.
go my same sex sibling play
15. buti te motokaa n te kawai.
goes car in the road
16. b'aka te ben iaon te auti.
falls the coconut on the house
17. anene ngaira.
sing us
18. takaakaro ngkamii.
play you (pl.)
19. biribiri naakekei iaon te bike.
run those people on the beach
20. roko naakai mai Tarawa.
come those people from Tarawa

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B. Add subject pronouns and nouns to make complete sentences of the following:

1. na nako Tarawa
will go to Tarawa
2. a tia n roko
came
3. kabooi kariki
buy some bread
4. b'akara te auti
dirty the house
5. bootaki n te m'aneaba
gather in the maneaba
6. nako n akawa
go fishing
7. matuu n te ruu
sleep in the room
8. uaua i taari
swim in the sea
9. na tiku i Bairiki
will stay in Bairiki
10. na roko ni ingaabong
will come in the morning
11. b'aka
fall
12. kuukana te am'arake
cook the food
13. tekateka n te m'aneaba
sit in the maneaba
14. takaakaro ma te booro
play with the ball
15. tang
cry
16. anene
sing
17. biribiri
run
18. wareka te boki
read the book
19. kana te am'arake
eat the food
20. toka n te meeri nako Betio
take the ferry to Betio

C. Change the subject pronoun in the following sentences to that indicated:

1. I Ko na m'ananga r te Moanibong.
you will leave Monday
2. you A nako ni matuu.
they go to sleep
3. he Ko na kabooa te kariki.
you will buy the bread
4. she Ti katea te auti.
we build the house
5. we N na nako n akawa.
I will go fishing.
6. you(p) E na itiiia te ran n te m'anib'a.
he will draw some water from the well
7. they E kana te ika.
she eats the fish
8. she I matuu iaon te inaai.
I'm sleeping on the mat
9. I Ko matakun te m'aie.
you watch the dance
10. you E na borau nako Nikunau.
he will navigate to Nikunau
11. he Kam na oki n te Kauabong.
you (p) will return Tuesday
12. he N na anganiko te ben.
I will give you the coconut
13. we E na mm'akuri ni ingaabong.
he will work in the morning
14. you(p) A na nakon te b'aatii.
they will go to the party
15. they Kam na roko irouu nakon te tairiki.
you (p) will come to me in the evening
16. it Ko b'aka man te o'aatika.
you fell from the bicycle
17. I A na tebotebo i taari.
they will wash in the sea
18. you A na matuu n te auti ni iruwa.
they will sleep in the guest house
19. he Ko na riai ni moko.
you will have to smoke
20. they Kam buokai ni katea au auti.
you (p) help me build my house

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D. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati (written):

1. I will go to the store.

2. She bought the rice.

3. They came yesterday.

4. It fell on the house.

5. He ate some bread.

6. We walked to the store.

7. I will see you tomorrow.

8. You drank tea.

9. I am writing a letter.

10. They sat in the maneaba.
