

VERBS - GENERAL

Lesson 31

Kiribati verbs cover a somewhat broader range than English verbs; they may appear to be adjectives or adverbs, indicate questions, or seem to be absent altogether from the sentence.

1. Tense

There is no distinct form for the different tenses, which are either indicated by auxiliary particles, or, more often, indicated solely by context. (see lesson 37 on tense).

2. Agreement

There is no agreement between a verb and its subject:

I roko.	I came.
E roko.	He came.

There is however agreement between a transitive verb and its object, with the ending of the verb varying according to the nature of the object. This is fully covered in the lesson on object pronouns, in lesson 22.

3. Interrogative, adverbial and adjectival verbs

Kiribati verbs may carry interrogative force, as explained in lesson 9:

Ko nakea?	Where are you going?
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They may also appear to be adverbial:

E waekoa.	It is fast.
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See lesson 34 on adverbs for a fuller discussion.

Finally, as explained in lesson 29, there is no distinction in function between adjectives and intransitive verbs:

E uraura te booro.	The ball is red.
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4. Repeated Action

One case of variation in the form of verbs is when the action is repeated or continues in time:

nako	to go
naanako	to usually go

This subject is treated in lesson 33 on reduplication.

5. Passive

~~As explained in lesson _____, there is a~~ passive suffix -aki which transforms a verb into its past participle:

E kabooa te raiti.	He bought the rice
E kabooaki te raiti.	The rice was bought.

There are a number of Kiribati verbs however which in meaning are already past participles:

reke	(be) gotten
bua	(be) lost

6. Transitive formation

Many verbs have both a transitive and intransitive form, with the transitive form being constructed by adding ka- to the beginning, and -a to the end of an intransitive verb:

bua	(be) lost
kabuaa	to lose
bokaboka	mud
kabokabokaa	to muddy
uraura	(be) red
kaurauraa	to redden
nako	to go
kanakoa	to send

(In addition, there are a number of suffixes which serve to create transitive verbs from other parts of speech.)

LESSON 31

A. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. The ball is red.

2. The tree is tall.

3. The book is on the table.

4. That woman is pretty.

5. My sister is in the house.

6. That man is a doctor.

7. The cup is on the bed.

8. My house is in the village.

9. The knife is very sharp.

10. The brown dog is angry.

B. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. Do you have any money?

2. I have four dogs.

3. That man has two books.

4. Have you a knife?

5. Does he have his box?

6. They have no children.

7. Have we any rice?

8. Do you have a cat?

9. They have \$3 each.

10. I have no paper.

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C. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. The big book is in the house.

2. Those people have three children.

3. That woman is a nurse.

4. The boys have no money.

5. That house is very big.

6. Does the doctor have a telephone?

7. My knife is under the coconut tree.

8. His daughter is in the hospital.

9. They have a care in America.

10. Have you any potatoes?
