

## TIME EXPRESSIONS - ADVERBIAL

### Lesson 34

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Like all languages, Kiribati has a number of ways of setting the time of a given utterance. While most of these are adverbial, there are also auxiliaries (lesson 37) and even some verbs which include the relative time within them.

#### 1. Demonstrative Time Adverbs

This set can be seen as parallel to the demonstrative pronouns (lesson 26), in that they have three degrees of relative "distance":

ngkai	now
ngkanne	then (later)
ngkekei	then (past)

Their position in the sentence is generally last, after the expressed subject, but in practice they are found in various positions, and so their placement is actually variable:

'preferred': E roko te tia mm'akuri ngkekei.  
The workman came then.

'variation': E roko ngkekei te tia mm'akuri.

The meaning of these adverbs can be intensified by adding naba (also) to the end:

ngkainaba	immediately, right now, at once
ngkannenaba	at the time mentioned
ngkekeinaba	at that time

Other time adverbs which function similarly:

ngkoa	some time ago
ngkoangkoa	a long time ago
ngkoananoa	yesterday
ningaabong	tomorrow
ngke	formerly
rimoa	formerly
rimwii	later, afterwards
imwiina	afterwards

2. Adverbial Expressions

In addition, an almost infinite number of time expressions may be composed with n, which function as adverbs:

n aki toki	always
n taai nako	always
n te bong koraki	every day
n te bong aei	today
n (taai) tabetai	sometimes
n te tairiki aei	tonight

3. Auxiliaries

The following are example<sup>s</sup> of auxiliaries functioning somewhat like time expressions. These are treated more fully in lesson 37 on tense/auxiliaries.:

a tib'a (tia n)	just
kaman	long ago
manga	again
kuri	almost
kaan	almost

4. Verbs

Some examples of a few verbs which function adverbially with regard to time:

maan	to be long
waekoa	to do fast
kiriarua	to take long



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A. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. I'm doing it now.

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2. He'll come then.

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3. They were in Nauru then.

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4. John is eating now.

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5. They'll bring their car then.

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6. She left for the store then.

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7. I don't know where they are now.

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8. I'll be busy then.

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9. He bought his rice then.

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10. Where is he now?

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B. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. He always buys his cigarettes at the store.

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2. She shops every day.

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3. I'm going to Beru today.

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4. They left some time ago.

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5. He'll come here tomorrow.

---

6. We sometimes eat meat.

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7. They're going to church tonight.

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8. I saw that movie yesterday.

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9. I'll go immediately.

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10. They lived in Britain long ago.

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C. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. That man came here some time ago.

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2. I can't help you now.

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3. She'll go to the store then.

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4. And they built their house then.

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5. The Father will be here tomorrow.

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6. We formerly worked for that company.

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7. Afterwards he said he couldn't do it.

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8. I sometimes go by bicycle.

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9. He always visits his grandmother.

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10. Those things are very expensive now.

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