

POSSESSION - PART 1 - INDEPENDENT PRONOUNS

Lesson 23

The system of possession in Kiribati is relatively complex and somewhat subtle. It is one of the distinctive characteristics of the language.

There are three basic markers of possession, a set of independent pronouns, which precede nouns, a set of corresponding suffixed pronouns, attached to the ends of nouns, and a linking possessive marker 'n'.

Independent Pronouns

This set operates most like the English possessive pronouns (my, your, his, her...), and is used in front of the possessed noun. They are only used when the possessor is animate. (1st and 2nd person pronouns are of course animate by nature.)

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
1st	au my	ara our
2nd	am your	amii your
3rd	ana his, her	aia their

They are used whether the possessor is explicitly expressed in the sentence or not:

au auti	my house
am boki	your book, books
ana kaa	his car
ana kaa Tiaon	John's car (his car John)

When the possessive pronouns are used, the articles 'te' or 'taian' are omitted (as in English, where we don't say "the my car") and plural lengthening does not occur. (Plurality is indicated by subject pronouns, verb endings, relative pronouns, etc.):

<u>E</u> buubura au auti.	It big my house.
<u>A</u> buubura au auti.	They big my houses.
I noora ara kamea.	I see our dog.
I noorii ara kamea.	I see (them) our dogs.

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A. Replace the underlined noun with the indicated possessed nouns:

- ex.: his 1. Bon te kaa. ... Bon ana kaa.
1. his Bon te taibora.
 table
 2. our Ti noora te boki.
 see the book
 3. her E taraa te auti.
 look at the house
 4. my E iria te kirii.
 go with him the dog
 5. their A kunei taiani boki.
 find some books
 6. your Ko kabuta te kaa.
 drive the car
 7. my I kunea te moko.
 find the smoke
 8. your(pl.) Kam kabooi taiani booro.
 buy some balls
 9. her Ti rin n te auti.
 enter house
 10. his E kakioa te moa.
 chase chicken
 11. our E kabuoki taian auti.
 burn the houses
 12. their E a mate te beeki.
 dead pig
 13. my E bua te biti.
 lost knife
 14. your Ko kabuaa te ibu.
 lose toddy shell
 15. her E karenakoa te b'aatika.
 throw away bicycle
 16. our E uruaki te rebwerebwe.
 broken motorbike
 17. their A nakon te auti.
 go to house
 18. my Aio te karo.
 parents
 19. your I aki roko n te bootaki.
 come group
 20. her I anganna te m'ane.
 give him the money

B. Insert the correct possessive pronoun into the following sentences.
(If more than one is possible, give more.):

1. Bon _____ kaa Tiaon.
car John
2. A toka mm'aane iaon _____ rebwerebwe.
ride men motorbikes
3. E ngaa _____ boki Meri?
where book Mary
4. Aikai _____ boki Tom ao Meri?
these books
5. Kam na uotimai _____ boki.
bring me
6. _____ okira _____ auti ni motirawa.
return rest
7. Aanga _____ beeba nakon te tia reirei.
give papers teacher
8. E aki reke _____ tai ni motirawa.
gotten rest time
9. E a bane _____ mm'akuri Rota.
finished work
10. A nako ngaiia nakon _____ auti.
go them
11. Ti na boobooti _____ boki ngaira aikai.
gather books we here
12. Ngkoe ae ko boni kabuaa _____ b'ai.
you lost things
13. Boni ngaia ae e katuka _____ buua.
him left bag
14. E orea _____ ataei neierei.
hit child that woman
15. A uaia n reke _____ beeba ni baati.
both got passing paper
16. Ko kabooa iaa _____ kunnikai Ruta?
buy where clothes
17. Boni ngai ae N na kabooa _____ boki.
I buy book
18. Ti nako ngaira ni karekei _____ moimoto.
get drinking nuts
19. E a tia n on _____ boki.
closed
20. E raioiroi riki _____ b'aatika.
better

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C. Replace the underlined nouns with the indicated possessed nouns:

ex.: 1. John's I anaa te boki. = I anaa ana boki Tiaon.

1. John's I anaa te b'aatika.
take bicycle
2. the boy's E bua te boki.
lost book
3. the girl's E anaaki te tai ni bai.
taken wrist watch
4. the children's Ti anai taiani kam.
take some gum
5. Mary's I noora te beeki.
see pig
6. women's Bon aei te bong.
this day
7. men's Aei te tabo.
this place
8. Tom's E urua te ruura.
break ruler
9. the teacher's Kaoka te katii!
give back gun
10. the man's E a tia te auti.
finished
11. the woman's E bou te b'ara.
new hat
12. the child's E mooii n te miriki.
drink milk
13. the old man's I matuu n te ruu.
sleep room
14. Ruth's I anaa te m'ane.
take money
15. the boy's A toka iaon taiani b'aatika.
ride bicycles
16. the girl's A boou taiani kunnikai.
new clothes
17. people's Te m'aneaba bon te tabo.
place
18. Joe's E bua te m'ane.
lost money
19. Paul's E matuu te kirii.
sleep dog
20. Susie's E un te katam'a.
angry cat

D. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. We went to our house.

2. She gave him your books.

3. Your (pl.) kindness is great.

4. I saw her car in the street.

5. Where is their house?

6. I lost my knife.

7. Their clothes are pretty.

8. Our books are on the table.

9. His dog is asleep.

10. Their car is broken.
