1. aki - not

Negation of Kiribati statements in the present/past, progressive, and future tenses is accomplished by inserting aki 'not' before the verb (after the auxiliary):

E ngare teuaarei
he laugh [that-man]
That man laughs/laughed

E aki ngare teuaarei.
he not laugh [that man]
That man didn't laugh.

I a nakonako.
I am walking

I a aki nakonako.
I'm not walking.

E na kabooa te miriki.
He will buy the milk.

E na aki kabooa te miriki.
He won't buy the milk.

Kiribati uses another word for 'not' as well, but its use is much more limited. aikoa, 'not, contrary to as expected' is only used with a, the marker for incompleted action:

E a aikoa roko.
He's not coming. (contrary to expectations)

I a aikoa roko ngke e tairiki b'a l tabe.
I didn't come last night (contrary to expectations) because I was busy.

When used in the past as in the last example, it requires an accompanying phrase of explanation: 'b'a...')
2. **tuai, tuai men - not yet, never**

Negation of a statement or question in the completed past is accomplished by replacing a-tia-n 'finished' with tuai-n 'not yet', (or a more emphatic form, tuai men, 'certainly not yet, never');

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuai-n korea te reta.</th>
<th>I have finished writing.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I wrote the letter.</td>
<td>(it's finished)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuai-n korea te reta.</th>
<th>I've not yet written the letter.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E a-tia-n roko.</th>
<th>He's not yet come.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He came. He has arrived.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E tuai-n roko.</th>
<th>He hasn't arrived yet.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E tuai men roko.</th>
<th>He hasn't ever come.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3. **Negative responses to questions**

Kiribati has three different ways of responding negatively to a question, determined by the nature of the question which is asked. In most cases the English answer to any of them would be simply 'no'.

a. **aki**

When a simple yes-no question is posed, beginning with a subject pronoun, the negative response is the appropriate subject pronoun + aki (and optionally, the remainder of the negated proposition):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>He laugh man-that</strong></th>
<th><strong>He not</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E ngare teuaarei?</td>
<td>E aki.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did that man laugh?</td>
<td>No (, he didn't).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>You buy the meat</strong></th>
<th><strong>I not</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ko kabooa te iriko?</td>
<td>I aki.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you buy the meat?</td>
<td>No. (I didn't)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>I will go</strong></th>
<th><strong>You not</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N na nako Betio?</td>
<td>Ko aki.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will I go to Betio?</td>
<td>No. (you won't)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>We</strong></th>
<th><strong>We not</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ti a-tia-ni mm'akuri?</td>
<td>Ti tuai.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have we finished the work?</td>
<td>No. (we haven't yet)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ti a nakonako?
Will we walk?

Ti na aki.
No. (we won't)

Ti a nako?
Can we go?

Kam aki.
No. (you can't)

A na karaoia?
Will they do it?

A aki.
No. (they won't)

Remember that a response to a negative question shows the responder's evaluation of the truth of the statement, unlike English. (see page 31):

E aki roko?
He hasn't come?

E eng.
No. (yes, it's true, he hasn't come)

A aki buubura?
They're not big?

A buubura.
Yes. (no, it's not true, they are big)

b. *tiaki*

When a yes-no question begins with a word other than a subject pronoun, such as a possessive, bon ('truly'); ia'i ('there is, are'), or other form, the negative answer is *tiaki* ('no'). (Note that this is written as one word, unlike *ti aki*, although virtually indistinguishable in pronunciation):

Aio am b'ai?
Is this your thing?

Tiaki.
No.

Bon ana auti?
Is it his house?

Tiaki.
No.

Am bentira aei?
Is this your pencil?

Tiaki.
No.

Raam teuaarei?
What relation is he to you?

Tiaki au koraki.
No relation of mine.

Tiaon aei?
Is this John?

Tiaki.
No.

Antai ae e na buokai?
Who will help me?

Tiaki ngai.
Not me.
c. akea

When the question is one of quantity, and the answer is 'none', the Kiribati response is akea (none, nothing):

Iraua am boki?  
How many books have you?  
Akea.  (naba teuana)  
None.  (not even one)

lai am bentira?  
Do you have a pencil?  
Akea.  
No.  (none)

E bati te aomata iai?  
Are there many people there?  
Akea.  
No, none.

E ngaa Tawita?  
Where' David?  
Akea.  
Not here.
EXERCISES

NEGATIVES

LESSON 12

A. Make negative statements from the following sentences, using aki:

1. E noora te aiine.
   see woman

2. I toka n te b'aatika.
   ride or bicycle

3. Ti takaakaro n te marae.
   play field

4. Ti tebotebo i taari.
   wash sea

5. A wareka te rongorongo.
   read news

   speak his mother

7. Kam noorai?
   see me

8. Ti kana te ben.
   eat coconut

9. I nako Beru.

10. A kukurei ataeinimm'aane.
    happy children

11. E nakon te titooa.
    store

12. A toka n te kaa.
    car

13. E buti te booti.
    goes boat

14. E kiba te waanikiba.
    fly airplane

15. Ti ongo te rongorongo.
    hear

16. I koroboki n te been.
    write pen

17. E oki ma Kuria.
    return

18. Ti mooi n te ran.
    drink water

19. E moomoko n te rauara.
    smoke rauara

20. Ti kaakana te bakoa.
    eating shark
B. Answer the following questions using tuai or tuai men:

1. Kam a tia n roko i Butaritari?
2. E a tia n tebotebo?
   bathed
3. Ko a tia n noora te kamea?
   dog
4. E a uti?
   awakened
5. Kam a tauraoi?
   ready
6. Ko a tia n am'arake?
   eaten
7. E a matuu?
   asleep
8. A a nako?
9. Kam a tia ni kabooi kariki?
   bought bread
10. E a tauraoi te am'arake?
    ready    food
11. Ko a tia ni korea am karewe?
    cut    toddy
12. E a mai te am'arake?
    cooked
13. A a tia ni kaam'arakeiia beeki?
    feed    pigs
14. Ko rabakau n te taetae ni Kiribati?
15. E a tei am auti?
    built
16. Ko a tia ni kaaitiboo ma Titewen?
    met    Steven
17. A roko am koraki?
    family
18. Ko a rabakau ni moko?
    smoking
19. Ko a tia n tareboon?
    telephoned
20. E a kukurei buum?
    happy    your spouse
C. Answer the following questions with short negative answers:

1. Ko kukurei ni m'ananga? (happy) depart
2. E roko am reta? (letter)
3. Kam a tia n am'arake?
4. Ko ongo te rongorongo? (hear) news
5. E moomoko? (smokes)
6. E kaakana te raiti? (eat) rice
7. A nako ataeinimm'aane? (children)
8. Kam a mm'akuri? (work)
9. A rabakau ni koroboki? (writing)
10. E kabooa te miriki? (milk)
LESSON 12

D. Answer the following questions with long negative answers:

1. Ko noora ana kamea Toma?
   see dog

2. E korea te reta nakon tinana?
   write letter his mother

3. Ko a tia ni kabooa te kariki?
   bought bread

4. A a tia n nako Nikunau?

5. E a tia n am'arake?

6. Ko karaoa te mataroa?
   make door

7. Kam ataia ae ngai te bureitiman?
   know I policeman

8. E ataia ae ti na nako Betio?

9. Ko a tia n tebotebo?
   bathed

10. Kam a matuu?
    sleep
E. Answer the following questions, first positively, then negatively:

1. E aki uotia?
   bring it

2. A aki ongo?
   hear

3. Kam aki ataia?
   know it

4. E aki ongo?

5. Ko aki nooria?
   see it

6. Ko aki anaia?
   take it

7. A na aki oki?
   return

8. E na aki nakomai?
   come here

9. Ko aki tuangga?
   tell him
F. Give long or short negative answers to the following questions:

1. Am auti aei?  
   house this

2. Ana rebwerebwe aei?  
   motorcycle

3. Arei aia auti?  
   that

4. Aei ana b'aatika Toma?  
   bicycle

5. Au b'ai aei?  
   thing

6. Bon am booti aei?  
   boat

7. Bon te koaua?  
   truth

8. E boni koaua?  
   true

9. A bon roko?  
   arrived

10. Kam anaia?  
    take it

11. E kewe?  
    lying
G. Give negative answers to the following questions:

1. E roko Meeri? 
   arrive
2. Kam noora te boki? 
   see book
3. Ko a tia n am'arake?
4. Iai am moko? 
   smoke
5. Ko noora au boki?
6. Iraai am been? 
   pen
7. Ti na nako?
8. E a tia n nako?
9. Kam marurung? 
   well
10. E na oki? 
    return
11. Ko ataia? 
    know it
12. Am auti aei?
13. E buubura am auti? 
    big
14. Ti ngkoe? 
    only
15. Ti ngkamii?
16. Iai ana moko? 
    is there
17. E mm'akuri Tim? 
    work
18. A na roko ikai? 
    here
19. Abam aei? 
    your land
20. Aram Tauro? 
    your name
H. Write out questions to which the following are answers:

1. Akea au been.

2. I tuai n roko i Makin.

3. Tiaki abara aei.

4. I aki noora Tiaon.

5. Akea Bauro ikai.


7. E tuai n am'arako.

8. N na aki nako.

9. Tiaki au boki aanne.

10. Kam na aki tiku ikai.