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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th></th>
<th>Plural</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>au</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>ara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>your</td>
<td>amii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>ana kaa</td>
<td>his, her</td>
<td>aia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.):

- E buubura au auti: It big my house.
- A buubura au auti: They big my houses.
- I noora ara kamea: I see our dog.
- I noorii ara kamea: I see (them) our dogs.
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 kabuuaa te iibu.
          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 ngaia nakon ____ auti.
    go them
11. Ti na boobooti ____ boki ngaira aikai.
    gather books we here
12. Nkoe ae ko boni kabuaa ____ b'ai.
    you lost things
13. Boni ngaia ae e katuka ____ buua.
    him left bag
    hit child that woman
15. A uaia n reke ____ beeba ni baati.
    both got passing paper
16. Ko kabooa laa ____ kunnikai Ruta?
    buy where clothes
17. Boni ngai ae N na kabooa ____ boki.
    I buy book
18. Ti nako ngaia ni karekei ____ moimoto.
    get drinking nuts
19. E a tia n on ____ boki.
    closed
20. E raoiro riki ____ b'aatika.
    better
C. Replace the underlined nouns with the indicated possessed nouns:

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

1. John's l anaa te b'aaatika. 
   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 mooi n te miriki. 
    drink milk
13. the old man's l matuu n te ruu. 
    sleep room
14. Ruth's I anaa te m'ane. 
    take money
15. the boy's A toka laon taiani b'aaatika. 
    ride bicycles
16. the girl's A boou taiani kunnikai. 
    new clothes
17. people's Te m'aneeaba bon te tabo. 
    place
18. Joe's E bua te m'ane. 
    lost money
    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.