Corresponding to the independent possessive pronouns is a set of pronouns which are suffixed or attached to the ends of nouns. These suffixed forms are used with a large class of nouns called inalienable nouns. The suffixed forms are similar to the independent forms except that they drop the initial 'a':

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th></th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>-u</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>-ra</td>
<td>our</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>-m</td>
<td>your</td>
<td>-mii</td>
<td>your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>-na, -n</td>
<td>his, her, its</td>
<td>-ia</td>
<td>their</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: when these suffixes must be attached to nouns whose final consonant is incompatible, 'i' must be inserted. See page 12.)

The categories of inalienable nouns (which must take the suffixed forms) are:

1. **Body parts**, for example:

   - Bai arm, hand
   - Baiu my arm
   - Baim your arm
   - Baina his, her arm

   The only exception in this category is ari, eyebrow - au ari = my eyebrow, am ari = your eyebrow, etc.

2. **Family relationships**, for example:

   - Tina mother
   - Tinau my mother
   - Tinam your mother
   - Tinana his, her mother

   An exception in this category - karo, parent: au karo = my parent(s), etc.
3. **Intimate possessions**, for example:

- bee  loin cloth, lava-lava
- beeu  my loincloth  beera  our loincloth(s)
- beem  your loincloth  beemii  your loincloth(s)
- beena  his, her loincloth  beelia  their loincloth(s)

This category includes abstract intimate possessions as well, like life, death, smell, laugh, sleep, etc.

- tang  cry
- tangiu  my cry  tangira  our cry, (cries)
- tangim  your cry  tangimii  your cry
- tangina  his, her cry  tangiia  their cry

Exceptions include auti, house; am'arake, food; kaa, car. Words which are borrowed into the language, as from English, auti, kaa, never take the suffixed forms of the possessive.

Included however are some things which at first may seem not to be 'intimate' possessions, without a deeper understanding of Kiribati culture: waa, canoe; aba, land; mweenga, home.

4. **States of mind and feelings**, for example:

- nanokaawaki  sadness
- nanokaawakiu  my sadness  nanokaawakira  our sadness
- nanokaawakim  your sadness  nanokaawakimi  your sadness
- nanokaawakina  his, her sadness  nanokaawakiia  their sadness

5. **Positional relationships**

This category includes such things as on, above, beside, north of, the top of, etc. Words of this category are usually found in prepositional expressions, for example:

- rariki  position beside
- irarikiu  beside me
- irarikim  beside you
- meang  north
- i meangiu  north of me
- i meangim  north of you
- etc.

All prepositional expressions of the form *i ____n* drop the *n* before the possessive suffixes.
6. Nouns formed from verbs

By suffixing the possessive pronouns to verbs, including the passive forms, nouns are formed, for example:

- nako to go
- nakou my going
- tangiraki to be loved
- tangirakira the loving of us
  (our being loved)

In some cases, words may only exist with the possessive suffix attached:

- kanana his meal
- karara our meal
- nima my drink
- nima your drink
- etc.

(There are no forms: te kana, te nima, meaning 'the meal, a drink'.)

In a few cases, the same form may take the independent pronoun or suffixed pronoun, but the meanings are not the same:

- b'ai thing
- am b'ai your thing
- b'ai your dress
- ngake underpants, crotch
- au ngake my underpants
- ngakeu my crotch
- mata eye, lid
- ana mata its lids
- ran water, juice
- ana ran its water
- matara our eyes
- ranna its juice

Like the independent pronouns, the suffixes are used whether the possessor is expressed or not:

Bon ara boki (ngaira uoman).
It's our book (we two).

E ngaa mweengami ('Tiaon ao Mâri)?
Where is your house (John and Mary)?

However, in the 3rd person singular, there are two forms: one when the possessor is present (-n); one when the possessor is not present (-na).

- wae leg
- Iraai waena? How many legs has it/he?
- Iraai waen te taibora? How many legs has the table?

(Note that Iraua is used with the classifier -ai for elongated objects.)
While the 3rd person plural form for animate possessors does not change, when the expressed possessor is inanimate, the form used is 'n':

\begin{tabular}{ll}
  waeia aomata & people's legs \\
  waen taibora & tables' legs \\
\end{tabular}

(see next lesson for possession by non-human possessors.)
A. Add the indicated possessive pronouns to the following nouns:

my  your (sg)  his, her, its

bai
atuu
waa
matuu
nati
nanokaawaki
kana
ira
ngare

our  your (pl)  their

kun
wae
mata
mweenga
aba
tibu
tama
mate
inggainga
kukurei
B. Add the indicated suffixed pronouns to the following prepositions:

me  you  him, her, it

iao +
irariki +
i meang +
ibuki +
i maiaki +
iaa +

us  you  them

iao +
irariki +
i meang +
ibuki +
i maiaki +
iaa +
C. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. My hand is hurt.

2. His mother went to Maiana.

3. The book is next to him.

4. We heard the children's cries.

5. There is nothing under me.

6. Their canoe is red.

7. We ate our meal in his house.

8. They are walking behind us.

9. Their eyes are blue.

10. There are flies on those people's meal.