Besides the independent and suffixed possessive pronouns, which are used for human possessors, Kiribati employs a genitive particle 'n' for linking non-human nouns which have a kind of possessive relationship. As was mentioned in the lesson on possessive suffixes, this form is also used in the 3rd person singular when the possessor is expressed: waen Tiaon = John's leg.

It is more or less equivalent to the English 'of', or often "'s":

- taubuki-n te auti: roof of the house
- nuuka-n te karanga: middle of River
- tangi-n te kita: sound of the guitar
- räanti-n te tautaeka: the government's launch

You will notice that there is no immediate way to distinguish whether the possessed form is singular or plural, for plural, lengthening does not occur with 'n'. Thus, 'boki n te reirei' could be either 'the school's book' or 'the school's books'. Other features of the sentence would mark plurality. If the possessor is plural, the 'te' is dropped:

- taubuki-n auti: roofs of the houses
- nuuka-n karanga: middle of rivers
- tangi-n kita: sounds of guitars
- räanti-n tautaeka: governments' launches

This 'n' form, which is suffixed to the noun (like the possessive suffixes) may appear before a possessed noun as well:

- taubukin ana auti: roof of his house
- nuukan aia karanga: middle of their river
- tangin au kita: sound of my guitar
- räanti amii tautaeka: your government's launch

Remember that when the possessor is human, the possessive pronouns are used, suffixed or independent depending on whether the noun is inalienable or not. (see previous lesson).

'n' is also used to link the parts of compound words, but the operation is somewhat different, and the 'n' is not suffixed. See lesson on compounding.
A. Use 'n' (and insert 'i' if necessary) to show the indicated relationship between the two nouns:

ex: te kamaama, te auti
    te kamaaman te auti
    the window of the house

1. te booro, te reirei the school's ball
2. te auti, te mataroa the door of the house
3. te nuuka, te kaawa the middle of the village
4. te kirii, te mata the color of the dog
5. te burawa, te baeki the bag of flour
6. te kawai, te kaawa the road of the village
7. te mweenga, te rau the house of peace
8. te rau, te auti the thatch of the house
9. te auti, te oo the wall of the house
10. te uee, te aroka the plant's flower
11. te uaa, te kai the fruit of the tree
12. te kaa, te aobiti the office's car
13. te tautaeka, te booti the government's boat
14. te m'aneaba, te kaawa the village's maneaba
15. te anene, te taromauri the song of prayer
16. te aro, te boki the book of religion
17. te taetae, te aba the language of the country
18. te baba, te taeka the word of the fool
19. te rebwe, te baa the sound of thunder
20. te oota, te aba the light of the world
B. Use 'n' (and insert 'i' where necessary) to show the indicated relationships between the two nouns:

1. mataroa, auti  the houses' doors
2. baa, booki  the leaves of the books
3. ranga, kaa  the cars' wheels
4. kai, waka  the trees' roots
5. ram'a, auti  the houses' gables
6. taibora, uae  the flowers of the tables
7. kiing, mataroa  the keys of the doors
8. matan, auti  the colors of the houses
9. burae, atuu  the hair of the heads
10. mata, baoki  the lids of the boxes
11. tiib'ati, bai  the teapots' handles
12. rua, b'ab'ai  the pits of b'ab'ai
13. m'aanga, kai  the trees' branches
14. kai, baa  the leaves of the trees
15. b'ati, reirei  the schools' buses
16. oota, taura  the light of the lamps
17. baene, uaanikai  the baskets of fruits
18. burae, mannikiba  the birds' feathers
19. atuu, booki  the titles of the books
20. kamaama, auti  the windows of the houses
C. Written. Translate the following into Kiribati:

1. The government's car was broken.

2. The mountains of Hawaii are beautiful.

3. We went to the port of Betio.

4. You can't see the tops of the houses.

5. The boy lost the school's book.

6. Please give me a glass of beer.

7. The cup of coffee is on the table.

8. We listened to 'the voice of Tarawa'.

9. The colony's ship arrived yesterday.

10. The fisherman's canoe is red and blue.