ADJECTIVES

Lesson 29

Adjectives in Kiribati function in basically the same manner as intransitive verbs, and for the most part are invariable in form with regard to singular and plural.

Just like intransitive verbs, they function in sentences as the predicate:

E buubura te auti.
the house is big.

A birbiri ataei.
they ran children.

A very small number of adjectives have slightly different forms when used in the plural:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ab'ab'aki</td>
<td>big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riesta</td>
<td>tall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anaanau</td>
<td>long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raoiroi</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>buaakaka</td>
<td>bad</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

E ab'ab'aki te auti.
The house is big.
A ab'ab'aki tain auti.
The houses are big.
E raoiroi te biti.
A knife is good.
A raoiroi biti.
Knives are good.

When the adjective is used to modify a noun, whether the subject or object of the sentence, the construction is identical to that of a relative clause:

Te waa ae e butim'aaka.
a canoe which is fast =
a fast canoe

E ranga te waa ae e butim'aaka.
The fast canoe capsized.

E karab'alia aomata aika a aroi te koowana.
the governor thanked them people who they kind the governor

The governor thanked the kind people.
RELATED INFORMATION FOR OPTIONAL STUDY*

There are three cases relating to adjectives and relative pronouns in which the relative pronoun is optional, or if used, is not followed by the subject pronoun.

The first, apposition, was mentioned in the preceding lesson:

E a roko natina (are) te tia mm'akuri.
His son, the workman, came.

No subject pronoun follows the relative pronoun, and the relative pronoun itself is optional.

A similar situation holds when the adjective is the material of which the noun is made:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{te kaibuke (ae) te biti} & \quad \text{te m'angko (are) te kiraati} \\
\text{the steel ship} & \quad \text{the glass cup} \\
\text{te taibora (ae) te kai} & \quad \text{te raurau (ae) te beeba} \\
\text{the wooden table} & \quad \text{the paper plate}
\end{align*}
\]

Again, the relative pronoun is optional, and if used is not followed by a subject pronoun.

The third case operates similarly, and is used with locational prepositions:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{te boki are ieta} & \quad \text{the book on top} \\
\text{booki akana ieta} & \quad \text{books on top} \\
\text{te mm'aane are irarikina} & \quad \text{the man beside him} \\
\text{mm'aane aika irarikiu} & \quad \text{the men beside me}
\end{align*}
\]

In this case however, the relative pronoun is not optional but required, though once again the subject pronoun is omitted. Before a locational verb though, the subject pronoun reappears:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{te boki are e mena ieta} & \quad \text{the book (which is located) on top} \\
\text{mm'aane aika a mena irarikiu} & \quad \text{men (who are) beside me}
\end{align*}
\]

*There are no exercises accompanying this section.

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A. Construct sentences using the following nouns and adjectives:

ex: buubura + te auti = E buubura te auti.

1. buubura + te kaa
   big: car
2. uareereke + te auti
   little: house
3. uraura + te mm'aane
   red: man
4. mainaina + te tia reirei
   white: teacher
5. roro + booki
   black: book
6. rietaata + te nii
   tall: coconut tree
7. kimototo + aomata
   short: people
8. marurung + te beeki
   healthy: pig
9. m'aitoro + te ran
   cold: water
10. kabuebue + raubaba
    hot: plank
11. anaanau + te rongorongo
    long: news
12. rawaanata + te ika
    heavy: fish
13. tamaaroa + b'aara
    pretty: hats
14. buaakaka + kirii
    bad: dogs
15. butim'aaka+ te kaa
    fast: car
16. kakang + te biti
    sharp: knife
17. kukurei + ata'ai
    happy: children
18. matenten + te boki
    thick: book
19. maraurau + te uninga
    soft: pillow
20. raababa + te kie
    wide: mat
B. Change the following sentences into corresponding noun phrases:

ex: E kukurei te tama. = Te tama ae e kukurei.
    A raababa kawai. = Kawai aika a raababa.

1. E roro te boki.
   black book
2. A kukurei aomata.
   happy people
3. E anaanau te kawai.
   long road
4. A marurung mooa.
   healthy chickens
5. E aoraki te unimm'aane.
   ill old man
6. A uareereke iika.
   little fish
7. E raui taari.
   calm sea
8. A buubura naao.
   big waves
   goes out the sea
10. A mai mai ataei.
    wet children
11. E mauu te kunnikai.
    dry clothes
    easy minds
13. E raababa te kainiwene.
    wide bed
    obedient children
15. E rawaawata te tina.
    heavy mother
16. A aki o aomata.
    kind people
17. E kimototo te tai.
    short time
18. A ririeta kaai.
    tall trees
19. E beebete te baoki.
    light box
20. A kakanoa b'aketi.
    full buckets
C. Combine the following sentences into a single sentence:

ex: E biribiri te ataei. E ab'aab'aki te ataei. =
E biribiri te ataei ae e ab'aab'aki

1. E tang te aiine. E nanokaawaki te aiine.  
cries woman sad
2. E kangkang te ika. E nenea te ika.  
delicious fish oily
3. E b'aka te auti. E mka te auti.  
fall house rotten
breaks coconut tree tall
5. E aki konaa ni biri te mm'aane. E buubura te mm'aane.  
not can run man big
buys book green
7. E kana te am'arake. E kangkang te am'arake.  
eats food delicious
drink milk
takes book is on table
10. E rin n te auti. E rokanaki te auti!  
enters house locked
buys bread cheap
runs dog red
comes person new.
barks dog sees person
15. E a bua te boki. E raoiroi te boki.  
lost book good
sleeps woman tired
17. E ngare te teei. E kukurei te teei.  
laughs child happy
goes car new
come ship brings cargo
20. E matuu te mm'aane. E taningaroti te mm'aane.  
sleeps man lazy
D. Written. Form sentences from the following sets of words:

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ex: biribiri ab'aab'aki te ataei =
    E biribiri te ataei ae e ab'aab'aki.
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(Add the necessary subject pronouns, relative pronouns, etc.)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>nakonako</td>
<td>marika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>mooi</td>
<td>taka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>uraura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>matuu</td>
<td>manana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>nako</td>
<td>buubura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>b'aro</td>
<td>m'aitoro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>b'aka</td>
<td>rietaata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>b'aro</td>
<td>buubura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>tangira</td>
<td>uraura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>angai</td>
<td>bati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intensification of adjectives can be accomplished by the addition of bati n(i) (much, many), or rangi n(i) (very), or the combination of the two of them, rangi ni bati n(i) (very much/many of...):

E bati n rietaata te nii.
The coconut tree is very tall.

E rangi n rietaata te nii.
The coconut tree is very tall.

E rangi ni bati n rietaata te nii.
The coconut tree is very very tall.

The comparative is formed by the addition of riki (more):

raoiroi  good  buubura  big
raoiroi riki  better  buubura riki  bigger

When compared with something else, 'more than, -er than', nakon precedes the noun which it is being compared to:

E waetata riki te kaa nakon te b'aatika.
it fast more a car than a bicycle
A car is faster than a bicycle.

E buubura riki te kamea nakon te katami'a.
A dog is bigger than a cat.

The superlative form of adjectives is constructed using moan te (first of the) before the adjective:

moan te buubura = the biggest
moan te urauru = the reddest

Note however that this construction is also used when the quality is not necessarily the "-est", but is certainly "very, quite":

Bon te moan raoiroi te kaa aei.
This is an excellent car.