Kiribati verbs cover a somewhat broader range than English verbs; they may appear to be adjectives or adverbs, indicate questions, or seem to be absent altogether from the sentence.

1. **Tense**

There is no distinct form for the different tenses, which are either indicated by auxiliary particles, or, more often, indicated solely by context. (see lesson 37 on tense).

2. **Agreement**

There is no agreement between a verb and its subject:

- I roko. I came.
- E roko. He came.

There is however agreement between a transitive verb and its object, with the ending of the verb varying according to the nature of the object. This is fully covered in the lesson on object pronouns, in lesson 22.

3. **Interrogative, adverbial and adjectival verbs**

Kiribati verbs may carry interrogative force, as explained in lesson 9:

- Ko nakea? Where are you going?

They may also appear to be adverbial:

- E waekoa. It is fast.

See lesson 34 on adverbs for a fuller discussion.

Finally, as explained in lesson 29, there is no distinction in function between adjectives and intransitive verbs:

- E uraura te booro. The ball is red.
4. Repeated Action

One case of variation in the form of verbs is when the action is repeated or continues in time:

nako to go
naanako to usually go

This subject is treated in lesson 33 on reduplication.

5. Passive

As explained in lesson ___, there is a passive suffix -aki which transforms a verb into its past participle:

E kabooa te raiti. He bought the rice
E kabooaki te raiti. The rice was bought.

There are a number of Kiribati verbs however which in meaning are already past participles:

reke __gotten
bua __lost

6. Transitive formation

Many verbs have both a transitive and intransitive form, with the transitive form being constructed by adding ka- to the beginning, and -a to the end of an intransitive verb:

bua __lost
kabuaa to lose
bokaboka mud
kabokabokaa to muddy
uraura __red
kaurauraa to redden
nako to go
kanakoa to send

(In addition, there are a number of suffixes which serve to create transitive verbs from other parts of speech.)
7. 'To be'

There is no 'to be' verb in Kiribati. In many cases, 'be' can be considered as part of the meaning of an intransitive verb or adjective:

E uraura te booro. The ball (is) red.

'Equational' sentences, treated in lesson 3, have no surface verb, but connect two noun phrases with an "invisible" 'to be':

Te tia mm'akuri teuaarei.
A workman that man.

That man (is) a workman.

There is however a verb meaning 'to be located', which usually translates as 'to be' in English: mena.

E mena iaon te taibora te booro.
It is (located) on the table the ball.

The ball is on the table.

E mena inanom te auti te tia mm'akuri.
The workmen is (located) in the house.

'To have'

Neither is there a verb in Kiribati for 'to have'. The sense can be gotten by either using the possessive pronoun (lesson 23):

Iai am boki? Do you have a book?
(Is there your book?)

or a construction consisting of iai + irou-:

Iai te boki iroum? Do you have a book?
(Is there a book by you?)

In this latter case, irou- takes the appropriate possessive pronoun suffix (lesson 24).

There is some difference in the meaning of these two ways of expressing 'to have'. In the first case, the book is assumed to belong to the person being asked - your book. In the second no such inference is made - a book.
LESSON 31

A. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. The ball is red.

2. The tree is tall.

3. The book is on the table.

4. That woman is pretty.

5. My sister is in the house.

6. That man is a doctor.

7. The cup is on the bed.

8. My house is in the village.

9. The knife is very sharp.

10. The brown dog is angry.
B. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. Do you have any money?

2. I have four dogs.

3. That man has two books.

4. Have you a knife?

5. Does he have his box?

6. They have no children.

7. Have we any rice?

8. Do you have a cat?

9. They have $3 each.

10. I have no paper.
### C. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. The big book is in the house.

2. Those people have three children.

3. That woman is a nurse.

4. The boys have no money.

5. That house is very big.

6. Does the doctor have a telephone?

7. My knife is under the coconut tree.

8. His daughter is in the hospital.

9. They have a care in America.

10. Have you any potatoes?