Besides the means of joining two sentences into a single complex sentence illustrated in the preceding lesson on conjunctions, there are a number of additional conjunctions for indicating more complex relationships between the two subordinate sentences.

1. **If**

When one part of a complex sentence is dependent upon the occurrence or truth of the other, this can be shown through the use of conditional conjunctions:

- ngkana: if (future)
- ngke: if (non-future)

The more common position for these conjunctions is at the head of the sentence, with the second clause preceded by ao 'and, then':

- Ngkana l roko ao ko a konaa ni motirawa.
  If I come (then) you can rest.

- Ngke e roko ao ti konaa n nako.
  If he came (then) we could go.

Note that when ngkana is used the future is indicated, so the future auxiliary is not used. (Not Ngkana N na roko...).

These sentences could also be constructed with the clauses reversed, dropping the ao. While this is somewhat less common, it is used to change the emphasis or focus of the sentence:

- Ko konaa ni motirawa ngkana l roko.
  You can rest if I come.

- Ti konaa n nako ngke e roko.
  We could go if he came.

Actually, these conjunctions are somewhat ambiguous, and unless the meaning were clarified by context, they could be interpreted as meaning 'since,' or 'when'. In situations of ambiguity, the conditional or doubtful status of the sentence can be strengthened by modifying the conjunctions:
ngkana (tao) (arona b'a) if (future)
ngke (tao) (arona b'a) if (non-future)

The bracketed notation above stands for four possible forms, with the implied uncertainty increasing with the length of the form chosen:

ngkana
ngkana tao
ngkana arona b'a
ngkana tao arona b'a

2. Since, When

As mentioned above, when the sense of the conjunction is 'since', or 'when', the same forms are used, plus one for the present:

ngkane since, when, now that
ngkana since, when (fut.)
ngke since, when (past)

Ngkane l mena ikai ao ko konaa n nako.
Since I'm staying here you can leave.

Ngkana ko a tia ni karodia ao N na anganiko boom.
When you have done it (then) I will give you your pay.

Ngke e mate tibuu ao a nanokaawaki aomata ni kabane.
When my grandfather died all the people were sad.

As with the 'if' forms, the position of the clause may be reversed, dropping the ao.

When the second clause is followed by naba, the meaning is altered somewhat to mean 'even though, nonetheless, although':

Ngkane l mena ikai aq ko riai n tiku naba.
Although I am here you must stay (still).

3. Additional conjunctions

Besides the above-mentioned relationships, Kiribati uses a number of other conjoining forms to indicate different relationships between the two clauses. The same bracketed notation is used to indicate optional forms. In some cases the conjunction before the second clause is ma 'but' as shown:
e aoria ngke/ngkana ... ma even though, although

E aoria ngke I aki roko ma ko riai ni karoia.
Even though I don't come you must do it.

e (boni) ngae ngke/ngkana ... ma even though, although

E boni ngae ngke I a tia n ongo ma I bon aki kakaauaa.
Although I heard it I didn't believe it.

b'a because, since, as

I aki kukurei iroum b'a ko iowaawaa nakoiu.
I'm not happy with you since you've been naughty to me.

(b'a) bukina (b'a) OR (ngke/ngkai) because, since, as

I aki kukurei iroum bukina b'a ko iowaawaa nakoiu.
I was unhappy with you because you were naughty to me.

(b'a) kioina (b'a) OR (ngke/ngkai) because, since, as

Kioina ngkai e a mate tamana e riai n nakona nauseaerong.
Since his father died he must leave tomorrow.

n te aro ae/ane/are so that, in such a way that

E anga b'aingira n te aro are e na tangiraki iai irouia aomata.
He gave them presents so that the people would love him.

b'a e aongai a so that

I taetae raoi nakoina b'a e aonga n oota raoi nanona iai.
I spoke clearly to him so that he would understand well my meaning.

ni karoko until

Ko na tiku ikai ni karokoa I a manga oki.
Stay here until I return.

ti ngkana only if

Ko riai ni weteai ti ngkana iai kainnanom
You should call me only if there's something you need.
ma ti ngkana unless

N na bon roko ma ti ngkana iai tabeu.
I will come unless I'm busy.

ma ngaia ae/ane/are therefore

I karaoia ma ngaia are l a manga matuu.
I did it and therefore I slept again.

Ma ngaia are ngke l karaoia ao l a manga matuu.
Therefore when I did it I again slept.

Notice that in the above example, when the conjunction precedes the sentence it is necessary to include ngke/ngkai to show the sense 'when'.

(Note on e aoria ngke...: This form can show agreement between the subject pronoun and the object pronoun:

Ko aoriko ngke...
Even though you...

It can be used before possessed verbs without agreement:

Ko aoriko ngke ko nako=
Even though you go

E aoria nakom...
Even though you go...)
A. Combine the following pairs of sentences to form conditional (if)
meanings. Use both future and non-future conjunctions:

Ngkana i roko ao ko konaa ni motirawa.

1. L nako. E tia te kootiuei imwiu.
go finished causeway after I leave
2. E oki. Ti na karaoa te am'arake.
return make food
3. E a boo te raii. Ti riai ni kukurei.
there is peace must be happy
4. E tia te m'aneaba. A na bane n roko aomata.
finished all come the people
5. E nako raraou. I rangi n nanokaawaki.
go my friend very sad
sunset return home
come plane fly see it
8. Ko katuka te teei. Ane e na tang.
leave the child cry
asks for my friend the book give it
10. E m'ai te ika. Ko konaa ni kanna.
cooked fish can eat it
finished draw water can go play
cry children come teacher
finished letter go mail it
keep things be your friend
sunrise fly birds
sleep dream
17. E a tia n taetae. E tekateka.
finished talk sit
18. E mate lesu. E tabwena rokin m'aneaban te Atua.
died Jesus crack walls God
anger dog bite you
20. E nako n akawa. E oki ma te ika ae e m'aii.
go fishing return with many fish
B. Combine the following pairs of sentences to mean 'since, when'.
Use present, past, and future forms:

ex: I mena ikai. Ko konaa n nako.
    Ngkae I mena ikai ao ko konaa nako.

1. I tuangko te baei. Ko riai ni karaoia.
   tell you this thing you must do it
2. E oti taai i mainiku. E riai ni bung i maeao.
   rise sun in east must set in west
3. Iai irou te maiu. N na mm'akuri ibukin au botanaomata.
   I am alive work for people
4. E tuangai tamau b'a N na nako. I riai n nako.
   tell me my father go must go
5. Ko tauai ikai. I konaa n tiku teutana te tai.
   hold me here can stay a little time
6. E a tia n nako te kaibuke. Ti konaa n okiri mweengara.
   gone ship can return our homes
7. E m'aiitoro te ran. I konaa n mooi iai.
   cold water can drink
   want study can start study
   broken pencil can't write
    hurts my head must rest today
    finished work go pass time
    car must walk
    fish buy meat
    low tide can go fishing
15. E a boo te tai. Ti riai n okiri ara beku.
    it's time must return work
    want to go must fly plane
    happy my spirit must talk a little
18. E a tib'a roko raora. Ti konaa ni marooroo ma ngaia.
    just come our friend can talk with him
    enough time can stay a little
    come punished
C. Written. Translate the following sentences into Kiribati:

1. If I can come then you don't have to do it.

2. If he is fast he will win.

3. Since I'm here I'll do it.

4. When you leave give me your book.

5. When he said it everyone laughed.

6. Although I'm busy I'll help you.

7. Even though she's pretty I don't like her.

8. I want to leave because I'm sad.

9. He took the book so that he could study.

10. Keep my money until I return.

11. Wake me only if he comes.

12. Don't come unless you're ready.

13. He built it and therefore was happy.

14. I don't know if you know him.