

$1 + 1 = 1$

Ground-soaker

Face-hurter

Tree-blower

Cold-causer

Heat-maker

Sky-blocker

Vision-stopper

Ear-deafener

Anna



Have you worked out which bits of the weather Anna is describing? Here they are – but not necessarily in the right order!

fog	cloud	frost	wind	rain	thunder	hail	sunshine
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## Kennings

Each of those lines is a **kenning**: a short phrase usually made up of two words, meant to bring everyday things to life. They've been used in writing since Anglo Saxon times – more than 1000 years ago. They would call a ship 'wave's-horse', the sea 'seal's field' and the sun became 'sky-candle'! Each kenning is therefore a metaphor – and also a short riddle.

The kenning is still used today. We wear 'body warmers'; we build things with 'earth movers'; we go on holiday in 'people carriers'.

In each of Anna's lines, she takes two words (both nouns) and puts them together to make one noun – or rather a noun phrase. She then joins the two nouns together with one tiny bit of punctuation, called a **hyphen**.



## Now it's your turn

Read the details before you begin.

Anna's subject was the weather. Here are eight more subjects:

animals	parts of the head	electrical items	round things
clothing	transport	plants and trees	outer space

- \* Choose one of them – or one you've thought of yourself – and make a list of 6 to 8 items that belong to your subject. For instance, if you choose animals, you might begin with cat, whale, hedgehog. Now you need to make a kenning for each of them.
- \* To do this, think of one thing each of them does, a verb. So... a cat *laps* milk, a whale *blows* water out of its spout, a hedgehog can *turn* into a ball.
- \* Turn each of your verbs into a noun – usually by just adding *r* or *er* to the verb. Your cat becomes a *milk-lapper*, the whale's a *water-blower*, the hedgehog is a *ball-turner*.
- \* Repeat this process for each item in your list and your kennings collection is complete. Decide on the best order for your kennings. Make a final draft with your subject at the top as your title.

