

What is a kenning?

Kennings are like riddles.
They describe something without ever saying what it is.

Read these phrases out loud. What could they be describing?



lip-licking

sauce-swirling

chin-dripping

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing

What is a kenning?

How about these?



tail-wagger

face-licker

ball-catcher

sofa-hogger

door-scratcher

cat-chaser

What is a kenning?

What did you notice about the poems?

tail-wagger

face-licker

ball-catcher

sofa-hogger

door-scratcher

cat-chaser



lip-licking

chin-dripping

sauce-swirling

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing



What is a kenning?

What did you notice about the phrases in each poem?

Each line of the poem is made of a two-word phrase.

tail-wagger

face-licker

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a noun (by adding -er to the second noun).



The words are joined by a hyphen.

lip-licking

chin-dripping

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a verb (the verb usually ends in -ing).



Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

First, we need to choose a theme. (It doesn't have to be gory, like the Vikings!)



eat

Then, we brainstorm lots of words or phrases associated with that theme...

mice drinks milk nuzzle scratch

stalk **sleeps a lot** fur **night**

hunter hates **rubs ankles** purr
dogs

Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

To start creating your kenning, try and make a noun + noun phrase or a noun + verb phrase using your words.

mice

drinks milk

nose

ear

nuzzle

scratch

night

stalk

sleeps a lot

lick

fur

night

hunter

hates

rubs ankles

purr

dogs

Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

Finally, put them together in your two-word phrases.

Don't forget the hyphens!

mouse-hunting

milk-drinking

night-stalking

fur-licking

ankle-rubbing

dog-hating

nose-nuzzling

ear-scratching



Let's have a go!

We are going to write a kenning about a VE Day Street party.

First, we need to think of all of the things we can see (the nouns)...

I will start you off.

flags

cake

people

Add to the words, you will want 8-10 in total.

Now think of verbs that match those nouns. Things that they do or are being done.

waving

flags

eating

cake

dancing

people

Finally, put them together in your two-word phrases (noun + verb).

Don't forget those hyphens!

Flag-waving

People-dancing

Cake eating

