

9. The Triantiwontigongolope



There's a very funny insect that you do not often spy,  
And it isn't quite a spider, and it isn't quite a fly;  
It is something like a beetle, and a little like a bee,  
But nothing like a woolly grub that climbs upon a tree.  
Its name is quite a hard one, but you'll learn it soon, I hope.  
So try:

Tri-

Tri-anti-wonti-

Triantiwontigongolope.



It lives on weeds and wattle-gum, and has a funny face;  
Its appetite is hearty, and its manners a disgrace.  
When first you come upon it, it will give you quite a scare,  
But when you look for it again, you find it isn't there.  
And unless you call it softly it will stay away and mope.  
So try:

Tri-

Tri-anti-wonti-

Triantiwontigongolope.



It trembles if you tickle it or tread upon its toes;  
It is not an early riser, but it has a snubbish nose.  
If you sneer at it, or scold it, it will scuttle off in shame,  
But it purrs and purrs quite proudly if you call it by its name,  
And offer it some sandwiches of sealing-wax and soap.  
So try:

Tri-

Tri-anti-wonti-

Triantiwontigongolope.



But of course you haven't seen it; and I truthfully confess  
That I haven't seen it either, and I don't know its address.  
For there isn't such an insect, though there really might have been  
If the trees and grass were purple, and the sky was bottle green.  
It's just a little joke of mine, which you'll forgive, I hope.  
Oh, try!

Tri-

Tri-anti-wonti-

Triantiwontigongolope.

– C. J. Dennis



### Things to do :

1. Read the poem aloud using proper intonation.
2. Note that we say 'its appetite', 'its manners' and not 'it's appetite' or 'it's manners'.  
**It's** means 'It is' and **its** means 'belonging to it'.
3. Activities
  - (1) Is the insect described in the poem a real insect? Think about an imaginary creature. Describe it in your own words. You may draw its picture and label it.
  - (2) Think of other funny names for imaginary creatures. Write any 3 of them.