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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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nick·name  (nĭk nām')

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n.

1. A descriptive name added to or replacing the actual name of a person, place, or thing.
2. A familiar or shortened form of a proper name.

tr.v. nick·named, nick·nam·ing, nick·names

1. To give a nickname to.
2. *Archaic* To call by an incorrect name; misname.

[Middle English *neke name*, from *a neke name*, alteration of *an eke name* : *eke*, addition (from Old English *ēaca*; see [aug-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *name*, name; see [NAME](#).]

nick nām'er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

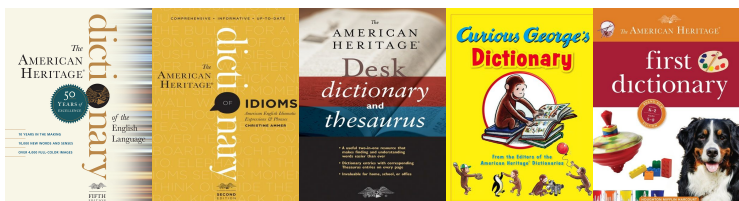
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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