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cun·ning  (kŭn ĭng)

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adj.

1. Marked by or given to artful subtlety and deceptiveness.
2. Executed with or exhibiting ingenuity.
3. Delicately pleasing; pretty or cute: *a cunning pet*.

n.

1. Skill in deception; guile.
2. Skill or adeptness in execution or performance; dexterity.

[Middle English, present participle of *connen*, to know, from Old English *cunnan*; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cun ning·ly *adv.*

cun ning·ness *n.*

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