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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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ken  (kĕn)

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n.

1. Perception; understanding: *complex issues well beyond our ken.*

2.

a. Range of vision.

b. View; sight.

v. **kenned** or **kent** (kĕnt), **ken·ning**, **kens**

Scots

v.tr.

1. To know (a person or thing).

2. To recognize.

v.intr.

To have knowledge or an understanding.

[From Middle English *kennen* (influenced by Old Norse *kenna*, to know), from Old English *cennan*, to declare; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Ken.

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abbr.

Kentucky

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[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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