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ken·ning  (kĕn ĭng)

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n.

A figurative, usually compound expression used in place of a name or noun, especially in Old English and Old Norse poetry; for example, *storm of swords* is a kenning for *battle*.

[Old Norse, from *kenna*, to know, to name with a kenning; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

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