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dictionary

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English
Language



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gnome¹ (nōm)

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- n.*
1. One of a fabled race of dwarflike creatures who live underground and guard treasure hoards.
 2. In the occult philosophy of Paracelsus, a being that has earth as its element.

[French, from New Latin *gnomus*, earth elemental in the occult philosophy of Paracelsus, of unknown origin.]

gnomish *adj.*

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gnome² (nōm)

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- n.*
- A pithy saying that expresses a general truth or fundamental principle; an aphorism.

[Greek *gnōmē*, from *gignōskein*, to know; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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