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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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gno·mon  (nō mŏn', -mən)

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n.

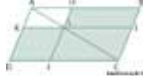
1. An object, such as the style of a sundial, that projects a shadow used as an indicator.
2. The geometric figure that remains after a parallelogram has been removed from a similar but larger parallelogram with which it shares a corner.

[Latin *gnōmōn*, from Greek, interpreter, pointer of a sundial, from *gignōskein*, to know; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

gno·mon *ic*, **gno·mon** *i·cal* *adj.*



(click for a larger image)



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gnomon

top: on a sundial

bottom: A gnomon of the parallelogram ABCD is the shaded figure HBCDKL.

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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:

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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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