

Some Old English masculine nouns in *-ing* and *-ling* with their derivational bases.

• Designations of persons in *-ing*:

cyning ‘king’ (cynn ‘lineage’)

æþeling ‘man of royal blood, nobleman’ (æþele ‘noble’)

hearding ‘hero’ (poetic; heard ‘hard, bold’)

lȳtling ‘child’ (lȳtel ‘little’)

fōstring ‘foster-child’ (fōstrian ‘to foster’, fōstor ‘sustenance’); see below

līesing ‘freedman’ (lēas ‘free’)

earming ‘poor man’ (earn ‘poor’)

flīeming ‘fugitive’ (flēam ‘flight’)

ræping ‘prisoner, criminal’ (ræpan ‘to tie up’, rāp ‘rope’); see below

hōring ‘adulterer’ (hōr ‘adultery’)

nīþing ‘villain, outlaw’ (nīþ ‘enmity, hatred’)

Cerdicing ‘member of the royal house of Wessex’ (Cerdic, founder of the house)

Æþelwulfing ‘descendant of Æthelwulf’ (Æþelwulf, father of Alfred the Great) þ

Centingas ‘the men of Kent’ (Cent)

• Designations of coins in *-ing*:

pening ‘penny’ (etymology obscure)

scilling ‘shilling’ (etymology disputed; sciold ‘shield’?)

siolfring ‘silver coin’ (siolfor ‘silver’)

cāsering ‘Roman coin’ (cāsere ‘emperor, Caesar’)

• Designation of other things in *-ing*:

hæring ‘herring’ (hær ‘hair’, apparently in an older (?) meaning ‘bristles’)

bīesting ‘colostrum’ (bēost, same meaning)

brenting ‘ship’ (poetic; brant ‘steep, high’)

basing ‘cloak’ (basu ‘purple’)

The suffix *-ling* arose by resegmentation of words in **-inga-* formed from diminutives in **-ila-*; that is, **-il-inga-* → **-i-linga-*, and **-linga-* then spread. At least the first example below goes back to Proto-Germanic.

- Designations of persons in *-ling*:

gædeling ‘kinsman, comrade’ (poetic; gada ‘companion’)

(ǵe)sibling ‘kinsman’ ((ǵe)sibb ‘related’, sibb ‘relationship’)

fōstorling ‘foster-child’ (fōstriān ‘to foster’, fōstor ‘sustenance’); see below

ǵeongling ‘young person’ (ǵeong ‘young’)

ierþling ‘plowman, farmer’ (ierþ ‘(act of) plowing’)

hȳrling ‘wage laborer’ (hȳr ‘wages’)

ræpling ‘prisoner, criminal’ (ræpan ‘to tie up’, rāp ‘rope’); see above

dēorling ‘favorite, darling’ (dēore, dēore ‘valuable, dear’)

efenling ‘peer, fellow’ (efen ‘level, equal’)

underling ‘subordinate, inferior’ (under ‘under’)

- Designations of things in *-ling*:

stærling ‘starling’ (stær, same meaning)

mæstling ‘fattened pig’ (mæst ‘beechnuts’)

fēorþling ‘one-fourth’ (fēorþa ‘fourth’)