

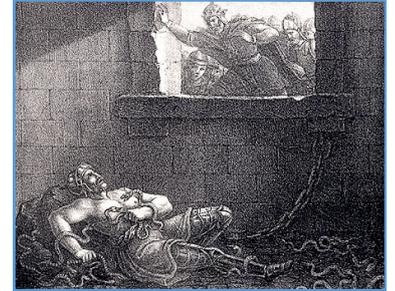
Create Your Viking Byname

A byname or epithet is a word that describes someone, kind of like a nickname. These were very popular in the Viking period. Many famous Vikings had epithets at the end of their names.

Learn about some of history's weirdest epithets and have a go making your own!

Ragnar Lodbrok

Ragnar was an extremely fierce Viking who led many raids against Britain. Lodbrok is not his last name. It's his epithet or byname. "Lodbrok" means "shaggy breeches" or "hairy trousers". He got the name after becoming famous for his unusually hairy clothing.



Ragnar Lodbrok was executed by being thrown into a pit of snakes

Ivar the Boneless

Ivar was Ragnar's son. He led an extremely large Viking army that attacked Britain after Ragnar's death. His epithet comes from a legend which said he had no bones in his legs - although this is unlikely to be true.

Haldan the Generous and Stingy on Food

Haldan was a Viking king with one of the longest bynames. He was famous for giving away large amounts of gold but also for not feeding his troops very well—hence the name.

Eystein the Fart

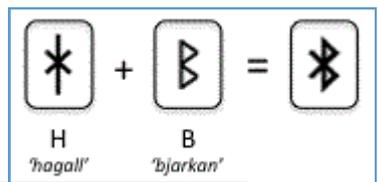
We don't know much about Eystein. He was a Viking king who was killed after being hit by the sail of his own ship. We don't know how he got such an unusual byname.



Eystein the Fart falls from his boat

Harald Bluetooth

Harald was a Viking king of Denmark and Norway but is perhaps more famous for the fact that his byname is the origin of the Bluetooth in our phones. However he was probably called Bluetooth because he didn't have very good teeth.



Create your own Viking byname

Start with your own name then add a word or even a short sentence that best describes you. It could be a personality trait like brave or smart. It could be something about your appearance like tall or big feet. Why not write your new byname in the box below.