

***ahaz** Runic: 𐌰𐌶𐌵𐌹 Pronunciation: /'a.xaz/

noun · neuter · z-stem

Meanings

ear, spike, or head of grain

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **h₂ék-os* ~ **h₂ék-es-os*, a neuter s-stem built from **h₂ék-*. In Proto-Germanic this was preserved as a neuter z-stem **ahaz* ~ **ahiz-*, later partly remodeled, possibly as **ahsq* (Kroonen et al. 2022: 7; Ringe 2017: 310). Cognate with Latin *acus* < Proto-Italic **akos-*, Tocharian A *āk*, and Tocharian B *āke*, which likely preserve the more primary sense ‘tip, point’. A possible Greek comparandum is Ancient Greek ἀκοστή (*akostḗ*), though some Greek ‘chaff’ terms in this semantic field are less secure (Wodtko et al. 2008: 289). The agricultural sense ‘ear/awn/husk of grain’ is probably secondary after the Tocharian split, rather than directly reconstructible as the original PIE meaning (de Vaan 2008: 24; Kroonen et al. 2022: 7). Compare also the related *n*-derivative **ahanō* and Latin *agna*, from **h₂ék-on-eh₂-*, where the same semantic development from ‘sharp object’ to ‘awn/chaff/ear’ is visible (Kroonen et al. 2022: 13), though de Vaan (2008: 23–24) also notes that Latin *agna* may alternatively be a Mediterranean loan.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ahaz	ahizō
Acc.	ahaz	ahizō
Gen.	ahiziz	ahizô
Dat.	ahizi	ahizumaz
Inst.	ahizē	ahizumiz
Voc.	ahaz	ahizō

Descendants

***ahar, *ahir** (Proto-West Germanic)

- *ār** (Old Dutch)
 - aer** (Middle Dutch)
 - aar** (Dutch)
 - aar** (Afrikaans)

***ahar, *ahir** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ēar, æhher** (Old English)
 - eere, ear, ere, er, 3er, eyre** (Middle English)
 - ear** (English)
 - aicher, icker, aiker, æhher** (Scots)

***ahar, *ahir** (Proto-West Germanic)

- *ēr** (Old Frisian)
 - Iere** (Saterland Frisian)
 - ier** (West Frisian)

***ahar, *ahir** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ahir, ahar, ehir** (Old High German)
 - cher, äher** (Middle High German)
 - Äli** (Alemannic German)
 - Ähre** (German)

***ahar, *ahir** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ahir, ahar, ehir** (Old High German)

eher, äher (Middle High German)

Ohr, Öhr, Ähr, Ähjer, Iehr (Central Franconian)

Éi (Luxembourgish)

***ahar, *ahir** (Proto-West Germanic)

ahar, ahir, ehir (Old Saxon)

ār (Middle Low German)

Ahr (Low German)

Oa (Plautdietsch)

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