

***ahslō** Runic: 𐌱𐌶𐌰𐌶 Pronunciation: /'ax.slō:/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

shoulder; shoulder-joint, probably including the adjacent armpit/underarm region

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **h₂éks-l-éh₂-* ~ **h₂éks-(i)l-éh₂-*, a feminine **-éh₂* derivative of root **h₂éks-* with an **-l-* extension (Kroonen 2013: 6). The broader Indo-European family includes Sanskrit अक्ष (*akṣá-*), Ancient Greek ἄξων (*áxōn*), Latin *axis*, and, with the *l*-extension/body-part sense, Latin *āla* and *axilla* (de Vaan 2008: 66–67; Kroonen 2013: 6; Lubotsky 2023: 256–57). Recent discussion of PIE wagon terminology treats the ‘axle’ and ‘armpit/shoulder-joint’ senses as originally identical, with later suffixal and semantic disambiguation across the branches (Lubotsky 2023: 257; van Sluis et al. 2023: 231).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ahslō	ahslōz
Acc.	ahslō	ahslōz
Gen.	ahslōz	ahslō
Dat.	ahslōi	ahslōmaz
Inst.	ahslō	ahslōmiz
Voc.	ahslō	ahslōz

Descendants

***ahslu** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***assala** (Old Dutch)

assele (Middle Dutch)

assel (Dutch)

***ahslu** (Proto-West Germanic)

eaxl, eaxel, esl, exl (Old English)

axel, axle, eaxle, æxle, exle (Middle English)

axle (English)

aixle, exle (Scots)

***ahslu** (Proto-West Germanic)

axle, axle (Old Frisian)

ascle (Saterland Frisian)

***ahslu** (Proto-West Germanic)

axle, axle (Old Frisian)

ocsele (Middle Dutch)

oksel (Dutch)

oksel (Afrikaans)

***ahslu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ahsala (Old High German)

ahsel (Middle High German)

Achsel (German)

אַקסל (aksl) (Yiddish)

qxl (Old Norse)

øksl (Faroese)

öxl (Icelandic)

aksel (Norwegian)

qxl (Old Norse)

axæl (Old Danish)

aksel (Danish)

qxl (Old Norse)

axl (Old Swedish)

axel (Swedish)

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