

Runic: ᚼ ᚱ ᚹ ᚷ ᚱ ᚹ ᚼ ᚱ ᚷ ᚼ

Pronunciation: /'ax.tɔːy.tɛːˌxun.dã/

numeral

Meanings

eighty

Etymology

From **ahtōu* ('eight') + the analogical decade element ***tēhundq*, ultimately continuing a decimal formation meaning something like 'eight tens' (Ringe 2017: 230). The Proto-Germanic form is secondary. Ringe's (2017: 230–31) account, based on (Szemerényi 1960: 34–35), says that earlier ***ēhund-* arose in pre-Germanic **fimfēhund-* ('fifty'), with the original **-ē-* of **fimfē* ('five') later reanalyzed as a linking vowel, which then spread to **sehsēhund-* ('sixty') and then **sebunt-ēhund-* ('seventy'), which was later reanalyzed after the loss of final **-t* in **sebum*, as ***sebun-tēhund-*. This newly abstracted 'decad' suffix ***tēhund-* then spread analogically to 'eighty' and 'ninety', yielding **ahtōu-tēhundq* and **newun-tēhundq*, respectively. Subsequently, the forms for 'twenty' through 'sixty' were replaced with periphrastic forms including **tigiwiz*, plural of **teguz* (a *u*-stem derivation possibly reflecting a zero-grade collective or abstract noun) < **tehun* (Neri 2003: 180–83), leading to the common forms seen in the Proto-West Germanic reflexes today, such as English -ty, Dutch -tig, West Frisian -tich, and German -zig, as well as in many of the decad reflexes of Old Norse.

Descendants

𐌰𐌿𐍄𐌹𐍃𐌸𐌴𐌺𐌳𐌹 (**ahtautēhund**) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*ahtōu numeral *sebum numeral *teguz noun *tehun numeral