

***airō** Runic: ᚱ | ᚱᚰ Pronunciation: /'ɑj.rɔː/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

an oar; a long-handled implement used to propel or steer a boat

Etymology

Probably from pre-Germanic **h₂eyh₂-r-eh₂-* or **h₂oyh₂-r-eh₂-*, a substantivized feminine based on a deverbal adjective in **-rō-*. The underlying Proto-Indo-European root was **h₂eyh₂- ~ *h₂yeh₂-*, with *Schwebeablaut*; an oar was thus conceived as an instrument for pulling or setting a boat in motion (Höfler 2023: 93–94, 108–11). Related formations include Lithuanian *iena*, Slovene *ojē ~ ojēsa*, Vedic Sanskrit अयते (*áyate*) and ईयते (*íyate*), and याति (*yāti*). Ancient Greek οἶαξ (*oíax*) and Vedic Sanskrit ईषा (*iṣā*) belong to the same extended nominal family (Höfler 2023: 93–94, 108–18).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	airō	airōz
Acc.	airō	airōz
Gen.	airōz	airō
Dat.	airōi	airōmaz
Inst.	airō	airōmiz
Voc.	airō	airōz

Descendants

***airu** (Proto-West Germanic)

ār (Old English)

ore, hore, oore, are, aurre (Middle English)

oar (English)

air (Scots)

ár (Old Norse)

ár (Faroese)

ár (Icelandic)

år (Norwegian Bokmål)

år (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ár (Old Norse)

aar (Old Danish)

år (Danish)

ár (Old Norse)

ār (Old Swedish)

år (Swedish)

***airo** (Proto-Finnic)

***ājro** (Proto-Samic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)