

***aizą** Runic: 𐌱 | 𐌿 | 𐌵 Pronunciation: /'aɪ.zã/

noun · neuter · a-stem

Meanings

copper or bronze; by extension, metal, ore, and objects or money made from copper alloy

Etymology

From Early Germanic **ajaz* ~ **ajiz*, from Proto-Indo-European neuter s-stem **h₂éy-os* ~ **h₂éy-es-os*, possibly from a root **h₂ey-* found also in **h₂ey-dʰh₁-*. The inherited paradigm was reformulated in Proto-Germanic, probably with generalization of the oblique stem vocalism and subsequent remodeling: the inherited *-s-* was reinterpreted as part of the lexical stem, while the noun adopted the neuter *a*-stem declension (Kroonen 2013: s.v. **aiza-*; Ringe 2017: 159, 310; Thorsø et al. 2023: 108). Cognate with Latin *aes* ~ *aeris*, Umbrian *ahesnes*, Oscan *aizniō*, Sanskrit अयस् (*áyas*), and Avestan 𐬀𐬀𐬀𐬀𐬀 (*aiiah-*) (de Vaan 2008: 27–28; Olander 2023: 101; Thorsø et al. 2023: 108). The wide distribution supports inheritance from Proto-Indo-European, but the original sense was probably ‘copper’ or more generally ‘metal’, rather than specifically ‘bronze’: ‘bronze’, ‘iron’, ‘ore’, and ‘money’ represent later adaptations to changing metallurgical traditions.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	aizaꝥ	aizō
Acc.	aizaꝥ	aizō
Gen.	aizas, aizis	aizô
Dat.	aizai	aizamaz
Inst.	aizō	aizamiz
Voc.	aizaꝥ	aizō

Descendants

***air** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***ēr** (Old Dutch)

êer (Middle Dutch)

eer (Dutch)

***air** (Proto-West Germanic)

ār (Old English)

ore, oure, or, oor, nore, noure (Middle English)

ore (English)

ure, uir (Scots)

***air** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***ār, ēr** (Old Frisian)

Oare, Orre (Saterland Frisian)

***air** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēr (Old High German)

er (Middle High German)

Eer (Alemannic German)

eerig (Alemannic German)

***air** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēr (Old High German)

ērīn (Old High German)

ērīn (Middle High German)

ehern (German)

***air** (Proto-West Germanic)

ēr (Old Saxon)

ēr (Middle Low German)

eir (Old Norse)

eir (Icelandic)

eir (Old Norse)

ir (Danish)

irr (Norwegian Bokmål)

eir (Old Norse)

eir (Norwegian Nynorsk)

eir (Norwegian Bokmål)

eir (Old Norse)

ēr (Old Swedish)

ärg (Swedish)

𐌶𐌿𐍂 (aiz) (Gothic)

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