

***aldra** Runic: ᚦᚠᚳᚱᚦ Pronunciation: /'al.drã/

noun · neuter · a-stem

Meanings

1. life; the course or duration of one's life
2. lifetime; age

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **h₂el-tró-m*, an instrumental noun in **-tro-m* formed from the root **h₂el-*, probably originally referring to that connected with or resulting from growth and subsequently developing the Proto-Germanic meaning ‘life, lifetime; age’. A closely corresponding formation occurs in Proto-Celtic **altro-*, preserved in Old Irish *com-altar* and *mí-altar* (Kroonen 2013: s.v. **aldra-*; Olsen 1988: 8; van Sluis et al. 2023: 238). However, the Celtic formation retains the root's ‘nourish, raise’ semantics, whereas the PGmc semantics differ; van Sluis and colleagues therefore regard the Celtic and Germanic nouns as *independent parallel formations*, not evidence for a specifically Celto-Germanic word. Further Indo-European relatives of the root include Latin *alere* and Old Irish *alt*; compare also Latin *altus* < **h₂el-tó-s*, a different derivative of the same root (Matasović 2009a: 31; van Sluis et al. 2023: 238).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	aldrą	aldrō
Acc.	aldrą	aldrō
Gen.	aldras, aldris	aldrō
Dat.	aldrai	aldramaz
Inst.	aldrō	aldramaz
Voc.	aldrą	aldrō

Descendants

*aldr (Proto-West Germanic)

alder (Old Dutch)

ouder (Middle Dutch)

ouder (Dutch)

*aldr (Proto-West Germanic)

ealdor, aldor, ealder (Old English)

alder (Middle English)

*aldr (Proto-West Germanic)

ealdor, aldor, ealder (Old English)

ealdorman (Old English)

alderman, aldermon (Middle English)

alderman (English)

*aldr (Proto-West Germanic)

alder (Old Frisian)

Oaler (Saterland Frisian)

*aldr (Proto-West Germanic)

altar (Old High German)

alter (Middle High German)

Altar (Alemannic German)

Älter, Oiter (Bavarian)

אַלטער (alter) (Yiddish)

***aldr** (Proto-West Germanic)

altar (Old High German)

alter (Middle High German)

Alter, Alda, Alla (German)

Alter (Luxembourgish)

***aldr** (Proto-West Germanic)

aldar (Old Saxon)

alder, older, ölder (Middle Low German)

Oller, Öller (Low German)

aldr (Old Norse)

aldur (Faroese)

aldur (Icelandic)

alder, aldur, aldre, elder (Norwegian Nynorsk)

aldr (Old Norse)

alder (Danish)

alder (Norwegian Bokmål)

aldr (Old Norse)

alder (Old Swedish)

ålder (Swedish)

𐌱𐌿𐌰𐌿𐌰𐌳𐌿𐌸𐌰𐌸 (**framaldrs**) (Gothic)

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