

***alīnō** Runic: ᚱᚠᚠᚱᚩ Pronunciation: /'ɑ.li:.nɔ:/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

1. forearm; elbow
2. ell, cubit; a unit of length based on the forearm

Etymology

From pre-Germanic **olīnā* ~ **olenā*, ultimately a feminine **-eh₂* extension of an Indo-European *n*-stem meaning ‘elbow’. The underlying noun was an ablauting body-part *n*-stem, reconstructed by Pronk (2015: 333–34) as **h₃eh₁-l-n-* ~ **h₃h₁-el-n-*, probably originally with singulative function; it belongs to the conventionally reconstructed root **Heh₃l-*, though the precise laryngeals are uncertain (de Vaan 2008: 638). Cognate with Ancient Greek ὀλένη (*ōlénē*), Latin *ulna*, Old Irish *uilen*, and Welsh *elin* (Beekes 2010: 1678–79; Matasović 2009a: 297–98). Gothic 𐌰𐌻𐌺𐌴𐌹𐌶𐌰 (*aleina*) points to **alīnō*, while North and West Germanic reflect shortened **alinō*; alternatively, inherited suffixal variants may underlie the difference (Kroonen 2013: 22; Lloyd et al. 1998: s.v. *elina*). Ringe and Taylor (2014: 236) instead reconstruct **alīnō* and regard the Gothic long vowel as unexplained.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	alīnō	alīnōz
Acc.	alīnō	alīnōz
Gen.	alīnōz	alīnō̂
Dat.	alīnōi	alīnōmaz
Inst.	alīnō	alīnōmiz
Voc.	alīnō	alīnōz

Descendants

***alinu** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***elina** (Old Dutch)

elle, elne (Middle Dutch)

el (Dutch)

***alinu** (Proto-West Germanic)

eln (Old English)

elne, elle, ellen, eln, ellyn (Middle English)

ell (English)

elne, ellne, eln, el, ell (Scots)

***alinu** (Proto-West Germanic)

elne, ielne (Old Frisian)

Äälne (Saterland Frisian)

jelne, jellen (West Frisian)

***alinu** (Proto-West Germanic)

elina, elena, elna, elle (Old High German)

elline, elne, elle, eln, ellen, ele (Middle High German)

Elle (German)

***alinu** (Proto-West Germanic)

elina (Old Saxon)

elne (Middle Low German)

Ell (Low German)

*𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌵 (***alinu**) (Proto-Norse)

alin, eln, ɔln (Old Norse)

alen (Danish)

alin (Faroese)

alin, öln (Icelandic)

*𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌵 (***alinu**) (Proto-Norse)

alin, eln, ɔln (Old Norse)

alen (Norwegian)

*𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌵 (***alinu**) (Proto-Norse)

alin, eln, ɔln (Old Norse)

alin, aln (Old Swedish)

aln (Swedish)

𐌱𐌻𐌰𐌶 (**aleina**) (Gothic)

***alina** (Vulgar Latin)

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