

***ammō** Runic:  Pronunciation: /'am.mõ:/

noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Meanings

1. grandmother; a parent's mother
2. wet nurse, nurse
3. mother; especially as an affectionate or nursery term

Etymology

A nursery word or hypocorism (*Lallwort*), ultimately imitative rather than derived from a Proto-Indo-European lexical root. The word belongs to a widespread Indo-European nursery word type characterized by labial nasals, and reduplicative or geminate structure; compare Ancient Greek ἀμμή (*ammá*) , ἀμμία (*ammía*), Latin *amma*, Oscan *ammai*, and Albanian *amë*. De Vaan (2008: 38–39) formally reconstructs **h₂em(m)-h₂* for the Italic and comparable forms, but the variable gemination and the propensity of *amma*-type words to arise independently in child language make a regular PIE lexical reconstruction uncertain; the forms are better regarded as inherited and/or recurrent parallel nursery formations rather than secure cognates in the strict comparative sense. (Beekes 2010: 88, s.v. ἀμμή; Hansen 2018: 177).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ammō	ammōniz
Acc.	ammōnu	ammōnunz
Gen.	ammōniz	ammōnô
Dat.	ammōni	ammōmaz
Inst.	ammōnē	ammōmiz
Voc.	ammō	ammōniz

Descendants

***ammā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***amma** (Old Dutch)

amme (Middle Dutch)

amme, am (Dutch)

***ammā** (Proto-West Germanic)

amma (Old High German)

amme (Middle High German)

Amme, Oma (German)

***ammā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***amma** (Old Saxon)

amme (Middle Low German)

Ooma (Plautdietsch)

amma (Old Norse)

amme (Danish)

omma (Faroese)

amma (Icelandic)

amma (Norwegian Bokmål)

amma (Norwegian Nynorsk)

amma (Old Norse)

amma (Old Swedish)

amma (Swedish)

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