

***an**¹ Runic: 𐰇 𐰆 Pronunciation: /'an/
adverb

Meanings

on, onto

Etymology

From the Proto-Indo-European local particle **h₂en-*, probably through an extended local/allative adverb **h₂en-o* ~ **h₂en-ó*, though the exact formation underlying Proto-Germanic **an* ~ **ana* is disputed. Kroonen (2013: 26) derives Proto-Germanic **ana* from **h₂en-h₂*, with vocalization of final **h₂* to **a*; the resulting vowel was subsequently lost in simplex forms in individual Germanic languages but preserved in compounds and sometimes analogically restored. On the other hand, Dunkel (2014: 50–54) reconstructs **áno*, without the initial laryngeal, and van Beek (2018: 47 n. 33) considers **h₂en-o* possible. Compare Proto-Indo-Iranian **Haná*, continued by Avestan 𐬨𐬀𐬯𐬭𐬀 (*ana*), as well as Ancient Greek ἀνά (*aná*) and Proto-Italic **ana*, though the Greek and Italic forms can alternatively be derived from **h₂en-(e)h₂* (de Vaan 2008: 36; Dunkel 2014: 50–54).

Descendants

***an, *ana** (Proto-West Germanic)

an, on (Old English)

an, on, one, onne, hon, ane, æn (Middle English)

on (English)

an, on (Scots)

***an, *ana** (Proto-West Germanic)

ana, an, in (Old Dutch)

āne, āen, an (Middle Dutch)

aan (Limburgish)

***an, *ana** (Proto-West Germanic)

ana, an, in (Old Dutch)

āne, āen, an (Middle Dutch)

aan, an (Dutch)

aan (Afrikaans)

***an, *ana** (Proto-West Germanic)

on, an (Old Frisian)

a (North Frisian)

an, oun (Saterland Frisian)

oan (West Frisian)

***an, *ana** (Proto-West Germanic)

ana (Old High German)

ane, an (Middle High German)

an (German)

un (Luxembourgish)

aa (Pennsylvania German)

אַ (on) (Yiddish)

***an, *ana** (Proto-West Germanic)

ana, an (Old Saxon)

ane (Middle Low German)

an (Low German)

𐌱𐌰 (an), 𐌱𐌰𐌶 (ana) (Proto-Norse)

á (Old Norse)

á (Faroese)

á (Icelandic)

å (Norwegian Nynorsk)

𐌱𐌰 (an) 𐌱𐌰𐌶 (ana) (Proto-Norse)

á (Old Norse)

ā (Old Danish)

å (Danish)

𐌱𐌰 (an) 𐌱𐌰𐌶 (ana) (Proto-Norse)

á (Old Norse)

ā (Old Swedish)

å, a (Swedish)

𐌰𐌶𐌵 (ana) (Gothic)

***ani** (Proto-Finnic)

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