

***an²** Runic: 𐰇 𐰆 Pronunciation: /'an/

preposition

Meanings

1. on, upon (with dative)
2. onto (with accusative)

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* **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).

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