

***ansaz** Runic: ᚦᚦᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'an.saz/

noun · masculine · a-stem

Meanings

beam; a heavy supporting timber or pole

Etymology

Of uncertain origin; no non-Germanic Indo-European cognate can be established securely. Proto-Germanic **ansa-* ~ *anza-* is reflected in Old Norse *áss* and Gothic *𐌰𐌺𐌸* (*ans*), whose oblique stem appears as *𐌰𐌺𐌶-* (*anz-*) ; Finnish *ansas* is an early Germanic loan and thus confirms the antiquity of the Germanic noun rather than providing an independent cognate (Blažek 2023: 11; Kroonen 2013: 30; Ringe 2017: 302). Kroonen regards proposed connections with **amsaz*, Latin *onus*, and Latin *asser* as problematic. Neri (2009: 9) proposes instead Proto-Indo-European *h₁onh₃-s-o-*, comparing Latin *onus*, Sanskrit *अनस्* (*ánas*), and Ancient Greek *ὄνος* (*ónos*), but Ringe (2017: 302) still regards the etymology as obscure. Neri's derivation should remain tentative, particularly since Beekes (2010: 430, s.v. *ἔνοσις*) rejects the **h₁enh₃-* root analysis on which this comparison was based. The formally tempting comparison with Latin *ānsa*, Ancient Greek *ἡνία* (*hēnía*), Lithuanian *qsà*, and Old Prussian *ansis* is better kept with **ansijō*; this group is commonly traced to Proto-Indo-European **h₂emseh₂*, from **h₂em-*, but its connection to **ansaz* remains uncertain (Beekes 2010: s.v. *ἡνία*; Kroonen 2013: 30; de Vaan 2008: 44). See also **ansijō*.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ansaz	ansōz, ansōs
Acc.	ansaꝥ	ansanz
Gen.	ansas, ansis	ansô
Dat.	ansai	ansamaz
Inst.	ansō	ansamiz
Voc.	ans	ansōz, ansōs

Descendants

ansboum (Middle High German)

áss (Old Norse)

ásur (Faroese)

ås (Norwegian)

áss (Old Norse)

ās (Old Swedish)

ås (Swedish)

𐌰𐌺𐌸 (ans) (Gothic)

***ansas** (Proto-Finnic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)

Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***amsaz** noun ***ansijō** noun

Entries that mention this word

***ansijō** noun

