

***arbija** Runic: 𐌱𐌹𐌸𐌴𐌹𐌿𐌰 Pronunciation: /'ar.βi.jǎ/

noun · neuter · ja-stem

Meanings

heritage, inheritance; patrimony

Etymology

From **h₃orb^h-yo-m*, a late or dialectal Indo-European formation shared by Celtic and Germanic, ultimately from root **h₃erb^h-*. The neuter **-yo-* formation may originally have been a substantivized relational adjective, **h₃orb^h-yo-* > **h₃orb^h-yo-m*. Cognate with Proto-Celtic **orbyom* > Old Irish *orbae*. The identical Celtic and Germanic formation is a Celto-Germanic morphological isogloss; shared dialectal Indo-European inheritance or innovation is possible, although early contact or borrowing cannot be excluded. Related through **h₃órb^hos* to Ancient Greek ὀρφανός (*orphanós*), Latin *orbus*, and Armenian ռրբ (*orb*); compare Hittite 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶 (*har-ap-zi*, /*harpzi*/) (Holopainen 2025: 89–93; Kloekhorst 2008: 311–312; Kroonen 2013: s.v. arbja-; van Sluis et al. 2023: 198, 217; Weiss 2006: 257–61).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	arbija	arbijō
Acc.	arbija	arbijō
Gen.	arbijas, arbīs	arbijō
Dat.	arbijai	arbijamaz
Inst.	arbijō	arbijamiz
Voc.	arbija	arbijō

Descendants

***arbī** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ervi** (Old Dutch)
 - erve** (Middle Dutch)
 - erf** (Dutch)
 - erf** (Afrikaans)

***arbī** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ierfe, yrfe, irfe, erfe, ærfe** (Old English)
 - erve, erfe, erf, irve, yrfe** (Middle English)
 - erf** (English)
 - arff, airf** (Scots)

***arbī** (Proto-West Germanic)

- erve** (Old Frisian)
 - Ierwe, Äärwe** (Saterland Frisian)

***arbī** (Proto-West Germanic)

- erbi** (Old High German)
 - erbe** (Middle High German)
 - Erbe** (German)
 - Ierwen** (Luxembourgish)

***arbī** (Proto-West Germanic)

- ervi** (Old Saxon)
 - Arf** (Low German)

𐱃 𐱃 𐱃 | 𐰃 𐰃 (**arbija**) (Proto-Norse)

- erfi** (Old Norse)
 - ervi** (Faroese)
 - erfi** (Icelandic)
 - erve** (Norwegian Nynorsk)
 - ærve** (Old Swedish)

𐌱𐌹𐌸𐌰 (**arbi**) (Gothic)

***arpa** (Proto-Finnic)

***ārpē** (Proto-Samic)

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