

***argaz** Runic: ᚱᚷᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'ar.ɣaz/

adjective · a-stem

Meanings

1. unmanly; cowardly, timid; dishonorable, unworthy
2. lewd, sexually indecent; effeminate, especially in North Germanic

Etymology

Probably from Proto-Indo-European **h₃órgʰ-o-s*, an o-grade thematic adjective from **h₃erǵʰ-*. The barytone formation has been interpreted as ‘one mounted/copulated with’, beside oxytone **h₃orǵʰ-ó-s* (Heidermanns 1993: 102–103). Cognate with Lithuanian *eržùs*, *aržùs* and Hittite  (*ar-ka-ri* /*arkari*/); Russian *ѣрзатъ* (*jórzatʹ*) has also been compared but is less secure (Frantíková 2022: 22–23; Kroonen 2013: 34). Probably related to PIE **h₁órgʰis* ~ **h₃órgʰis*, reflected by Ancient Greek *ὄρκις* (*órkhis*) and Old Armenian *ործիք* (*orjikʹ*). The initial laryngeal is disputed: **h₃-* is favored by Kloekhorst (2008: 203) and Kroonen (2013: 34), while LIV² (Rix et al. 2001: 238–39) and Frantíková (Frantíková 2022: 22–23, 228) reconstruct **h₁-*. Alternatively, Santoro (2002: 59–63) derives the Germanic adjective from a root meaning ‘shake, tremble’, with ‘cowardly’ as the primary sense.

Declension

Strong declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	argaz	argō	arga, -atō	argai	argōz	argō
Acc.	arganō	argō	arga, -atō	arganz	argōz	argō
Gen.	argas, -is	argaizōz	argas, -is	argaizô	argaizô	argaizô
Dat.	argammai	argaizōi	argammai	argaimaz	argaimaz	argaimaz
Inst.	arganō	argaizō	arganō	argaimiz	argaimiz	argaimiz

Weak declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	argô	argō	argô	arganiz	argōniz	argōnō
Acc.	arganų	argōnų	argô	arganunz	argōnunz	argōnō
Gen.	arginiz	argōniz	arginiz	arganô	argōnô	arganô
Dat.	argini	argōni	argini	argammaz	argōmaz	argammaz
Inst.	arginē	argōnē	arginē	argammiz	argōmiz	argammiz

Descendants

*arg (Proto-West Germanic)

arg (Old Dutch)
arch (Middle Dutch)
erg (Dutch)
erg (Afrikaans)

*arg (Proto-West Germanic)

earg, arg (Old English)
arg, argh, eri (Middle English)
argh, eerie (English)

***arg** (Proto-West Germanic)

earg, arg (Old English)

arg, argh, eri (Middle English)

argh, arch (Early Scots)

ergh, erfe, erf (Scots)

***arg** (Proto-West Germanic)

erch, erg (Old Frisian)

ärch, äärch (Saterland Frisian)

erch, arch (West Frisian)

***arg** (Proto-West Germanic)

arg, arc, arga (Old High German)

arc (Middle High German)

arg, arig (Alemannic German)

oarg (Bavarian)

ärch, arch (Central Franconian)

arg (German)

uerg (Luxembourgish)

ערגער (erger), ערגסט (ergst) (Yiddish)

***arg** (Proto-West Germanic)

***arug, *arg** (Old Saxon)

arich, arch (Middle Low German)

arg (Low German)

argr, ragr (Old Norse)

arg (Danish)

argur (Faroese)

argur (Icelandic)

arg, arga (Scots)

argr, ragr (Old Norse)

ragr (Old Norse)

ragur (Icelandic)

ragher (Old Swedish)

argr, ragr (Old Norse)

argher (Old Swedish)

arg (Swedish)

***𐌶𐌵𐌹𐍂𐍍 (*args)** (Gothic)

haragán (Spanish)

***arka** (Proto-Finnic)

arg (Estonian)

arka (Finnish)

arga (Karelian)

***ārkē** (Proto-Samic)

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