

***arhwō** Runic: ᚱ ᚷ ᚲ ᚰ Pronunciation: /'ar.xʷoː/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

arrow

Etymology

Probably ultimately from a European non-Indo-European substrate word-family. Kroonen (2013: 34) tentatively derives the Northwest Germanic forms from pre-Germanic **h₂érk-uh₂*, ~ **h₂erk-wéh₂-s*, a feminine **uh₂-stem*, yielding Early Germanic **arhū* ~ **arhwōz*, yielding Old English *earh* beside Northumbrian *arwe* and Old Norse *qr* ~ *qrvar*, though the precise post-Verner development remains uncertain (de Vaan & Kroonen 2016: 314–15; Ringe 2017: 133). De Vaan (2008: 52) derives cognate Latin *arcus* from Proto-Italic **arkuo-/ *arkʷo-*. Ancient Greek ἄρκευθος (*árkeuthos*), Cypriot ἄργετος (*árgetos*), and Proto-Slavic **orkyta* have been compared through their association with wood used for bows, with the Germanic word initially meaning something like ‘that which comes with a bow’, but recent work treats these tree names as probable substrate material rather than regular inherited cognates (Kroonen 2024: 307–308; Matasović 2024: 57).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	arhwō	arhwōz
Acc.	arhwō	arhwōz
Gen.	arhwōz	arhwō
Dat.	arhwōi	arhwōmaz
Inst.	arhwō	arhwōmiz
Voc.	arhwō	arhwōz

Descendants

- ***arhu** (Proto-West Germanic)
 - earh, arwe, arewe** (Old English)
 - arwe, arewe, arowe, arow** (Middle English)
 - arrow** (English)
 - arowe, arow** (Scots)

- qr** (Old Norse)
 - ørv, ørvur** (Faroese)
 - ör** (Icelandic)
 - arf** (Old Swedish)
 - Orvar** (Swedish)

- *𐌺𐌹𐌸𐌰 (***arlua**) (Gothic)
 - 𐌺𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌶𐌵𐌰 (**arluzna**) (Gothic)

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