

***atgaizaz** Runic: ᚱᚠᚷᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'at.ɣaj.zaz/

noun · masculine · a-stem

Meanings

1. spear, especially a heavy or thrusting spear
2. halberd, bill-like polearm (later North Germanic)

Etymology

From **at* + **gaizaz*. The compound is reflected independently in Old English *ætġār*, Old Frisian *etġēr*, Old High German *azgēr*, and Old Norse *atgeirr*, supporting Proto-Germanic antiquity (Lloyd & Springer 1988: s.v. *azgēr*). The first constituent probably denotes motion or attack toward/against an opponent: Lloyd and Springer interpret PGmc **at-* as marking the spear's movement against the enemy, rather than simply as an intensifier. Thus, the compound may originally have meant approximately 'attack spear' or 'spear directed against (an enemy)'. Old Norse *atgeirr* later developed specialized weapon senses and ultimately denoted 'halberd' in Icelandic (Orkisz 2016: 186–92). The second constituent **gaizaz* continues late Proto-Indo-European **ǵʰoís-ó-*, probably from root **ǵʰeis-*; compare Sanskrit *हेषस्* (*heṣas*). Recent work regards Proto-Celtic **gaiso-* as probably borrowed from Germanic rather than an inherited cognate (van Sluis et al. 2023: 221–22).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	atgaizaz	atgaizōz, atgaizōs
Acc.	atgaizā	atgaizanz
Gen.	atgaizas, atgaizis	atgaizô
Dat.	atgaizai	atgaizamaz
Inst.	atgaizō	atgaizamiz
Voc.	atgaiz	atgaizōz, atgaizōs

Descendants

***atgair** (Proto-West Germanic)

ætgār, ætegār, ategār, ætgære (Old English)

hategar (Middle English)

atgar (English)

*atgair (Proto-West Germanic)

etgēr (Old Frisian)

*atgair (Proto-West Germanic)

*atigēr, azgēr, azigēr (Old High German)

atigēr, azigēr (Middle High German)

*𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌱 | 𐌿𐌱𐌿 (*atgairar) (Proto-Norse)

atgeirr (Old Norse)

atgeir (Icelandic)

*𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌰 | 𐌿𐌱𐌿 (*atgairar) (Proto-Norse)

atgeirr (Old Norse)

atgeir (Norwegian Bokmål)

atgeir (Norwegian Nynorsk)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*at preposition *gaizaz noun