

***attô** Runic:  Pronunciation: /'at.tɔː/

noun · masculine · an-stem

Meanings

1. father, dad
2. a male ancestor; forefather

Etymology

From an expressive nursery word Proto-Indo-European **atta-*, integrated into Proto-Germanic as a masculine n-stem (Kroonen 2011a: 80; Kroonen 2013: 39). It is conventionally reconstructed as PIE **átta* (Ringe 2017: 20, 89); de Vaan (2008: 60) instead posits **h₂et-o-*. Compare Hittite  (*attas* /*at-ta-aš*/), Ancient Greek *ἄττα* (*átta*), Latin *atta*, and Proto-Celtic *attyō-* (de Vaan 2008: 60; Kloekhorst 2008: 225–26, s.v. *atta-*; Matasović 2009a: 46). Direct inheritance is uncertain: PIE **tt* is exceptional, and comparable nursery words arise independently in unrelated languages; Scarborough (2020: 198), therefore, considers independent formations more likely. Fulk (2018: 114) alternatively regards the Germanic word as probably borrowed from Greek or Latin.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	attô	attaniz
Acc.	attanꝰ	attanunz
Gen.	attiniz	attanô
Dat.	attini	attammaz
Inst.	attinē	attammiz
Voc.	attô	attaniz

Descendants

***attō** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***atto**, ***etto** (Old Dutch)

ette (Middle Dutch)

ette (Dutch)

***attō** (Proto-West Germanic)

atta, **aththa**, **atha**, **eththa** (Old Frisian)

ate, **aatj**, **taatje**, **tääte** (North Frisian)

***attō** (Proto-West Germanic)

atta, **aththa**, **atha**, **eththa** (Old Frisian)

heit (West Frisian)

heit (Dutch)

***attō** (Proto-West Germanic)

atto (Old High German)

atte (Middle High German)

Ätt (Bavarian)

***attō** (Proto-West Germanic)

atto (Old High German)

atte (Middle High German)

Ätti, **Ätte** (Alemannic German)

***attō** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***atto**, ***etto** (Old Saxon)

ette (Middle Low German)

Atti (Old Norse)

Atte (Norwegian Nynorsk)

Atti (Old Danish)

Atte (Old Swedish)

𐌱𐌹𐌰𐌿 (**atta**) (Gothic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)

Related Words

Entries that mention this word

*aip̄ noun