

***ausô** Runic: 𐌱𐌶𐌰𐌶 Pronunciation: /'au̯.sɔː/

noun · neuter · an-stem

Meanings

ear

Etymology

From the inherited Proto-Indo-European word for ‘ear’, probably an *s*-stem, though its exact paradigm is uncertain. Proposed reconstructions include **h₂éws-os* ~ *h₂éws-es-* and **h₂éws-s* ~ *h₂us-és-*; an older root noun has also been proposed, but this requires an otherwise unattested neuter type, and a three-grade paradigm **h₂ews-* ~ **h₂ows-* ~ *h₂us-* cannot be securely demonstrated (Lühr 2017: s.v. *ôra*). Proto-Germanic remodeled the word as a neuter *n*-stem **ausan-* ~ *auzan-*, with **s* ~ **z* reflecting Verner’s Law in an originally mobile paradigm, approximately **áus-un* : *auz-én-ez* (Lühr 2017: s.v. *ôra*; Ringe 2017: 308). The nasal may represent an inherited singulative formation associated with paired body parts (Pronk 2015: 331, 340–41), though Lühr alternatively allows a simple *n*-extension or metanalysis of a locative in *-en*. The old dual was important in the subsequent remodeling of the word in some branches (Cerri 2024: 41; Hock et al. 2020: 72–73, s.v. *ausis*). Cognate with Ancient Greek *οὔς* (*oûs*), Latin *auris*, Old Armenian *նկկկ* (*unkn*), Lithuanian *ausis*, Old Prussian *ausins*, and Proto-Celtic *awsos-* (Mallory & Adams 1997: s.v. *EAR*). No secure underlying verbal root can be identified; the older derivation from root **h₂ew-* is doubtful (Lühr 2017: s.v. *ôra*).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ausô	ausônō
Acc.	ausô	ausônō
Gen.	ausiniz	ausanô
Dat.	ausini	ausammaz
Inst.	ausinē	ausammiz
Voc.	ausô	ausônō

Descendants

- ***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)
 - ōra** (Old Dutch)
 - ôre** (Middle Dutch)
 - oear** (Limburgish)
- ***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)
 - ōra** (Old Dutch)
 - ôre** (Middle Dutch)
 - oor** (Dutch)
 - oor** (Afrikaans)
- ***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)
 - ēare** (Old English)
 - ere, eare, eere, eyr, ʒhere, here, ire, yere** (Middle English)
 - ear** (Scots)
- ***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)
 - āre** (Old Frisian)
 - ? (North Frisian)
 - Oor** (Saterland Frisian)
 - ear** (West Frisian)
- ***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)
 - ōra** (Old High German)
 - ore** (Middle High German)

Oor (Alemannic German)

Oar (Bavarian)

Ohr (German)

אויער (oyer) (Yiddish)

***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)

ōra (Old High German)

ore (Middle High German)

Uhr, Ohr (Central Franconian)

Ouer (Luxembourgish)

***aurā** (Proto-West Germanic)

ōra (Old Saxon)

ôre (Middle Low German)

Ohr (Low German)

oor (Dutch Low Saxon)

Ohr, Åhr, Ahr, Or, Ur (Low German)

eyra (Old Norse)

oyra (Faroese)

eyra (Icelandic)

øyra, øyre, øra, øre (Norwegian Nynorsk)

eyra (Old Norse)

ōræ (Old Danish)

øre (Danish)

øre (Norwegian Bokmål)

eyra (Old Norse)

ōra (Old Swedish)

öra, ör (Swedish)

𐌱𐌴𐌹𐌸𐌰 (ausō) (Gothic)

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