

***bainaz** Runic:  Pronunciation: /'baɪ.naz/

adjective · a-stem

Meanings

1. straight, right
2. ready, willing

Etymology

Of disputed origin. Likely from *bainą ('bone, leg') with the obvious semantic relationship. It seems unlikely that the reverse is true (*bainą < *bainaz), given that the term is only secure for North Proto-Germanic. (Urban 2015) makes a persuasive argument using cross-linguistic typological data to determine the dominant directionality of semantic change (bone > leg vs. leg > bone). He found that across the world's languages, there is a strong, recurrent metonymic pathway where words for 'bone' naturally shift to mean 'leg' or 'limb' (often via intermediate senses like 'shinbone' or 'thighbone'). Conversely, languages very rarely take a broad word for 'leg' and narrow it down to mean 'bone'.

Declension

Strong declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gen.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dat.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inst.	—	—	—	—	—	—

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Gen.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dat.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inst.	—	—	—	—	—	—

Descendants

beinn (Old Norse)

- ben (Danish)
- beinur (Faroese)
- beinn (Icelandic)
- ben, bein (Norwegian Bokmål)
- bein (Norwegian Nynorsk)
- benä (Swedish)

beinn (Old Norse)

- beyn, bayn, bayne, bain (Middle English)

bain (English)

bein, bien (Scots)

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