

***bōks** Runic: 𐌲𐌿𐌶𐌰 Pronunciation: /'bɔ:ks/

noun · feminine · consonant stem

Meanings

letter, written message, ‘book’

Etymology

Likely from Proto-Indo-European **b^heh₂ǵ-s* from **b^heh₂ǵ-o-s* (‘oak, beech’). Compare Latin *fāgus* (‘beech tree’), Ancient Greek *φηγός* (*phēgós*) (phēgós, ‘oak, acorn’), and Gaulish *bāgos* (‘beech’). The semantic development is commonly explained as ‘beechwood’ → ‘piece/stick/tablet of beechwood used for writing’ → ‘written sign, written message’ → ‘book’. This is preferable to older explanations involving beech bark or parchment-like bookfell, since the relevant intermediate is more likely a wooden writing tablet or rune-stick. Related to **bōkō* (‘beech tree’), but the exact relationship remains disputed (though early runic material such as Pre-Old English *heribœki* (‘army beech’) has been taken as possible support for an intermediate meaning ‘beechwood writing tablet’ or ‘rune-stick’) (Waxenberger, n.d.).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	bōks	bōkiz
Acc.	bōkų	bōkunz
Gen.	bōkiz	bōkô
Dat.	bōki	bōkumaz
Inst.	bōkē	bōkumiz
Voc.	bōk	bōkiz

Descendants

***bōk** (Proto-West Germanic)

buoc, buok (Old Dutch)

boec (Middle Dutch)

boek (Dutch)

book, Bouk (Limburgish)

***bōk** (Proto-West Germanic)

bōc (Old English)

bok, boc, boke, book, booke, buk, buke (Middle English)

book (English)

buik, beuk, buke, beuck (Scots)

***bōk** (Proto-West Germanic)

bōk (Old Frisian)

Bouk (Saterland Frisian)

boek (West Frisian)

***bōk** (Proto-West Germanic)

buoh, puoh (Old High German)

buoch (Middle High German)

Buech, Büäch (Alemannic German)

Buach (Bavarian)

Booch, Buch (Central Franconian)

Bouch (East Franconian)

Buch (German)

Buch, Busch (Rhine Franconian)

בוך (bukh) (Yiddish)

***bōk** (Proto-West Germanic)

bōk, buok (Old Saxon)

bōk, buk (Middle Low German)

Buak (Plautdietsch)

bók (Old Norse)

buok (Elfdalian)

bók (Faroese)

bok (Gutnish)

bók (Icelandic)

bok (Norwegian Bokmål)

bok (Norwegian Nynorsk)

bók (Old Norse)

bok (Old Danish)

bog (Danish)

bók (Old Norse)

bōk, þǫk (Old Swedish)

pyökki (Finnish)

bok (Swedish)

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