

***efþau** Runic: 𐌸𐌹𐌳𐌰 Pronunciation: /'eɸ.θau/

conjunction

Meanings

or

Etymology

From *eh ('but, except', from Proto-Indo-European **h₁egʰs/*h₁ek* (s), 'out') + *þau ('in that case', from PIE **tó-we*, from PIE **to-*, 'this, that' + **-we*, 'or'). The first element *eh is debated: many accounts assume *ef- matching West Proto-Germanic f-variants (e.g. Old English ofþe, Old Saxon eftha), possibly influenced by the Proto-Germanic conditional particle family ('if'); however, Gothic aiþþau is often taken to point to an earlier *ehþau with subsequent assimilation producing *-þþ-. The second element *þau is less controversial, though there are many other competing theories on its PIE heritage.

Descendants

efþa, ofþe, oððe, oðþe, oþðe, oþþa, oþþe, oþþon (Old English)

oththe, other, or (Middle English)

or (English)

or (Scots)

ieftha, iofta, jef, jof, jova, ofte (Old Frisian)

af, of (Saterland Frisian)

of (West Frisian)

efdo, eftha, eftho, ettho (Old Saxon)

edder, odder (Middle Low German)

efdo, eftha, eftho, ettho (Old Saxon)

efte, afte, ufte, uft, uf (Middle Low German)

of (Low German)

of, o' (Sauerland Low German)

***oftho, *ofto** (Old Dutch)

ofte, ochte (Middle Dutch)

ofte, of (Dutch)

ofte, of (Afrikaans)

odo (Old High German)

Middle High German:

odo (Old High German)

odar, odor (Old High German)

od, ode, oder (Middle High German)

oder (German)

oder (Luxembourgish)

אָדער (oder) (Yiddish)

eða, eðr (Old Norse)

eða, eður (Icelandic)

æthæ, eth (Old Danish)

eþa (Old Gutnish)

𐌰𐌿𐍆𐌸𐌰 (aiþþau) (Gothic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)