

noun · masculine · u-stem

Meanings

1. seriousness; earnest; strength; solidity
2. struggle; fight

Etymology

Probably from a nasal-extended noun from Proto-Germanic base *er- ‘fight, strife, hostile encounter’, remodeled as a tu-stem. It is best connected with Proto-Indo-European *h₁er- (‘to reach, arrive at, encounter’), with semantic development ‘reach/meet’ → ‘encounter, clash’ → ‘attack, battle’. Compare Sanskrit ॠति (*ṛti*) (ṛtí, ‘quarrel, strike; attack) and Ancient Greek ἔρις (érís, ‘strife; quarrel (especially of battle)’). Possibly related to *arniz (‘serious; capable, diligent’).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ernustuz	ernustiwiz
Acc.	ernustı	ernustunz
Gen.	ernustauz	ernustiwê
Dat.	ernustiwi	ernustumaz
Inst.	ernustû	ernustumiz
Voc.	ernustu	ernustiwiz

Descendants

earnest, eornost, eornust (Old English)

eornest, earnest (Middle English)

earnest (English)

ernist, ernyst (Scots)

ernst (Old Frisian)

Iedenst (Saterland Frisian)

earnst (West Frisian)

ernist, ernust (Old Saxon)

ērnest, ērnst (Middle Low German)

Eernst (Low German)

ernost, ernust (Old Dutch)

ernst, earnest (Middle Dutch)

èrns (Limburgish)

ernost, ernust (Old Dutch)

ernst, earnest (Middle Dutch)

ernst (Dutch)

erns (Afrikaans)

ernust (Old High German)

ērnest, ērnst (Middle High German)

Èèrnscht, Ärnscht (Alemannic German)

Eescht (Luxembourgish)

ernust (Old High German)

ērnest, ērnst (Middle High German)

Ernst (German)

Ernst, Ernest (English)

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