

***fiþulō** Runic: 𐍆𐍆𐍅𐍂𐍅𐍂 Pronunciation: /'fi.θu.lō:/

noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Meanings

fiddle

Etymology

Probably a native Proto-Germanic word from an onomatopoeic base: *fiþ- (compare English “fizz”) + a diminutive suffix (thus, ‘the little buzzing thing’). The internal *-þ- establishes that this word existed prior to the completion of Grimm’s Law. The traditional derivation from Medieval Latin *vitula* (‘a young cow, a female calf, a heifer’) is chronologically impossible, as such a borrowing would have entered Proto-Germanic with its hard dental stop intact (yielding **fitul-). Note, for example, Latin *strāta* (‘paved road’) → Proto-West Germanic *strātu (not **strōþa) and Latin *catillus* (‘small bowl, dish, plate’) → *katilaz (not **haþilaz). In the reverse process, Proto-Germanic *þ was regularly hardened into t in Latin borrowings: Gothic *𐍆𐍺𐍇𐍂𐍳𐍫𐍲𐍳 (*þiudareiks) > Latin *Theodericus* (pronounced as [tʰe.ɔ.deˈriː.kʊs] with a simple aspirated /t/).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	fiþulō	fiþulōniz
Acc.	fiþulōnų	fiþulōnunz
Gen.	fiþulōniz	fiþulōnô
Dat.	fiþulōni	fiþulōmaz
Inst.	fiþulōnē	fiþulōmiz
Voc.	fiþulō	fiþulōniz

Descendants

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

vitula, vidula (Late Latin)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***fithala** (Old Dutch)

vedele, viedele, vedel (Middle Dutch)

vedel, veel (Dutch)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***fiþele** (Old English)

fithele, fedele, fedle, fethele, ffythil, ffythele, fieþle, fithel, fiþele, fydell, phetele, phethele, viþele (Middle English)

fiddle (English)

fiddle (Scots)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***fithele, *fidele** (Old Frisian)

Fiedel (Saterland Frisian)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***fithele, *fidele** (Old Frisian)

fidel, fitel (West Frisian)

fiteltsje (West Frisian)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

fidala, fidula (Old High German)

videle, fidele, fidel (Middle High German)

Fedel, Fiddel (Central Franconian)

Fiedel, Fidel (German)

 פֿידל (**fidl**) (Yiddish)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

fidala, fidula (Old High German)

videle, fidele, fidel (Middle High German)

Fidel (Rhine Franconian)

Fiedel (Pennsylvania German)

***fiþulā** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***fithala** (Old Saxon)

vedele, vēdele, veddele, viddele, veddel, viddel (Middle Low German)

Fiedel (Low German)

Fiddel (Plautdietsch)

fiðla (Old Norse)

fiðla (Icelandic)

fele (Norwegian Bokmål)

fidla, fela, fele (Norwegian Nynorsk)

fiðla (Old Norse)

fithle (Old Danish)

fidel, fedel, fele, fejle (Danish)

fiðla (Old Norse)

fiþla (Old Swedish)

fidla, fela, fejla (Swedish)

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