

***-gaz** Runic:  Pronunciation: /ɣaz/

suffix · forms adjectives · a-stem

Function

forms adjectives from nouns and verbs with a sense of 'being, having, or doing'.

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **-ko-s*, an adjectival suffix forming words meaning 'having, characterized by, pertaining to'. The productive Proto-Germanic form **-gaz* reflects the suffix-accented form **-kó-s*. In this accentual type, the **k* > **g* by Verner's Law, because the syllable before **k* was not accented ([Kluge 1899: 96–100](#); [Ringe 2017: 326](#)).

A small number of Gothic adjectives preserve a non-Verner form **-haz*, from forms in which the syllable before **k* was accented. Compare Gothic adjectives ending in *-ahs* (*-ahs*): *STAINAHS* (*stainahs*), *WAURDAHs* (*waurdahs*), and *UNBARNAHs* (*unbarnahs*). These show that PGmc originally had both **-(V)haz* and **-(V)gaz*, but the voiced form **-(V)gaz* became the normal productive suffix via analogical leveling ([Kluge 1899: 96–100](#)).

Suffixes with a similar derivation to this one are **-agaz*, **-igaz*, and **-ugaz*. Cognates of this suffix include Latin *-cus*, Ancient Greek *-κός* (*-kós*), and Sanskrit *-कस* (*-kasa*).

Paradigm

Strong declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-gaz	-gō	-ga, -atō	-gai	-gōz	-gō
Acc.	-ganō	-gō	-ga, -atō	-ganz	-gōz	-gō
Gen.	-gas, -is	-gaizōz	-gas, -is	-gaizô	-gaizô	-gaizô
Dat.	-gammai	-gaizōi	-gammai	-gaimaz	-gaimaz	-gaimaz
Inst.	-ganō	-gaizō	-ganō	-gaimiz	-gaimiz	-gaimiz

Weak declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-gô	-gō	-gô	-ganiz	-gōniz	-gōnō
Acc.	-ganu	-gōnu	-gô	-ganunz	-gōnunz	-gōnō
Gen.	-giniz	-gōniz	-giniz	-ganô	-gōnô	-ganô
Dat.	-gini	-gōni	-gini	-gammaz	-gōmaz	-gammaz
Inst.	-ginē	-gōnē	-ginē	-gammiz	-gōmiz	-gammiz

Descendants

*-g, *-ag, *-ig, *-īg (Proto-West Germanic)

 *-ag, -ig (Old Dutch)

 -ich, -ech (Middle Dutch)

 -ig (Dutch)

*-g, *-ag, *-ig, *-īg (Proto-West Germanic)

 -ig, -iċ, -eġ (Old English)

 -iȝ, -i, -y, -ich (Middle English)

 -y, -ey, -ie (English)

 -ie (Scots)

*-g, *-ag, *-ig, *-īg (Proto-West Germanic)

-ich (Old Frisian)

-ich (Saterland Frisian)

-ich (West Frisian)

*-g, *-ag, *-ig, *-īg (Proto-West Germanic)

-ag, -ig, -īg (Old High German)

-ig (Middle High German)

-ig, -ich (German)

-eg (Luxembourgish)

יק (ik), ייג (ig) (Yiddish)

*-g, *-ag, *-ig, *-īg (Proto-West Germanic)

-ag, -ig (Old Saxon)

-ig, -ich (Middle Low German)

-ig (Low German)

-agr, -igr, ugr (Old Norse)

-ig (Danish)

-agur, -igur, -ugur (Faroese)

-agur, -igur, -ugur (Icelandic)

-ag, -ig, -ug (Norwegian)

-og, -ig (Swedish)

-rs (-gs), -𐌺rs (-ags), -𐌺hs (-ahs), -eirs (-eigs), -irs (-igs), -nrs (-ugs) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Entries that mention this word

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