

***-(i)jaz**¹ Runic: (|)᛫ᛦᛠᛢ Pronunciation: /i.jaz/

suffix · forms nouns · masculine · ja-stem

Function

forms masculine agent nouns, denoting a person characterized by an action, occupation, office, role, or sphere of activity; ‘one who ...’; like English ‘-er’

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **-yó-s*, with Sievers-law allomorph **-iyó-s*, a broad adjectival and nominal suffix that could form substantivized masculine personal nouns, including agentive nouns. In Proto-Germanic, the simple agent suffix **-jaz*/**-ijaz* survived mostly in relic formations, while productive personal agent nouns were increasingly formed with the n-stem extension **-(i)jô*. The suffix was not primarily agentive in PIE; the PGmc agent use represents a specialization of the wider **-yó-* adjectival/nominal formation ([Krahe & Meid 1969: 70–72](#); [Ringe 2017: 325–26](#)).

Declension

The suffix varies as **-jaz* /**-ijaz* based on Siever’s Law: the basic **-jaz* form is used after a “light” syl-lable (a short vowel followed by a single consonant), and otherwise, the form becomes **-ijaz*.

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-(i)jaz	-(i)jōz, -(i)jōs
Acc.	-(i)ja	-(i)janz
Gen.	-(i)jas, -īs	-(i)jô
Dat.	-(i)jai	-(i)jamaz
Inst.	-(i)jō	-(i)jamiz
Voc.	-ī	-(i)jōz, -(i)jōs

Descendants

-𐌆𐌸𐌰 (-jaR) (Proto-Norse)

-ir (Old Norse)

-eis (-eis) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*(i)jô noun

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