

***-(i)jô** Runic: (|)᛫᛫ Pronunciation: /i.joː/

noun · masculine · an-stem

Meanings

like modern English “-er”; forms masculine agent nouns and personal nouns, often from the zero-grade of the base

Etymology

From Early Germanic **-jan-/*-jōn-*, the weak masculine counterpart of agentive and personal nouns in **-ja-/*-jō-*. The formation combines a **j-* element, probably related to the Proto-Indo-European relational or appurtenance suffix **-yo-*, with the inherited individualizing *n*-stem inflection. The exact chronology of the combination is uncertain: some formations may continue inherited complex suffixes, while others may have arisen within Germanic through the transfer of *ja*-stems to the productive weak declension ([Kroonen 2011a: 64–65](#); [Lehmann 1986a: §4.2.2](#); [Pronk 2015: 327–29](#)).

Declension

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

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-(i)jô	-(i)janiz
Acc.	-(i)janu	-(i)janunz
Gen.	-(i)jiniz	-(i)janô
Dat.	-(i)jini	-(i)jammaz
Inst.	-(i)jinē	-(i)jammiz
Voc.	-(i)jô	-(i)janiz

Descendants

*-jō (Proto-West Germanic)

- o (Old Dutch)
- a (Old English)
- a (Old Frisian)
- o, -eo (Old High German)
- io (Old Saxon)

-i (Old Norse)

- e (Old Swedish)

-𐌱𐌰 (-ja) (Gothic)

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