

***-istaz** Runic: | > ↑ ꝛ Ꝛ Pronunciation: /is.taz/

suffix · forms adjectives · a-stem

Function

forms the superlative of certain adjectives

Etymology

From the Proto-Indo-European formation **-is-tó-s*, from an elative suffix **-yos- ~ *-is-* + **-tó-* (Meier-Brügger 2003: 219–22; Ringe 2017: 229, 316–18). It was the inherited adjectival superlative suffix corresponding to comparative **-is*. It was commonly used with *i-*, *u-*, and *ja-*stem adjectives. Proto-Germanic also developed a similar suffix, **-ōstaz*, corresponding to the comparative form **-ōz*, mainly used with *a/ō-*stem adjectives. But note that the distribution of **-istaz* and **-ōstaz* in adjectives based on *a/ō-*stem adjectives was lexical and analogical and not fully predictable (Fulk 2018: 219–20). This suffix is cognate with Ancient Greek *-ῖστος* (*-ístos*) and Sanskrit *-इष्ठ* (*-iṣṭha*) (which reflects the related PIE variant **-is-th₂o-*) both forming superlative adjectives (Meier-Brügger 2003: 221–22).

Paradigm

Strong declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-istaz	-istō	-ista, -atō	-istai	-istōz	-istō
Acc.	-istanō	-istō	-ista, -atō	-istanz	-istōz	-istō
Gen.	-istas, -is	-istaizōz	-istas, -is	-istaizô	-istaizô	-istaizô
Dat.	-istammai	-istaizōi	-istammai	-istaimaz	-istaimaz	-istaimaz
Inst.	-istanō	-istaizō	-istanō	-istaimiz	-istaimiz	-istaimiz

Weak declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-istō	-istō	-istō	-istaniz	-istōniz	-istōnō
Acc.	-istanu	-istōnu	-istō	-istanunz	-istōnunz	-istōnō
Gen.	-istiniz	-istōniz	-istiniz	-istanô	-istōnô	-istanô
Dat.	-istini	-istōni	-istini	-istammaz	-istōmaz	-istammaz
Inst.	-istinē	-istōnē	-istinē	-istammiz	-istōmiz	-istammiz

Descendants

*-ist (Proto-West Germanic)

- ist (Old Dutch)
 - st (Middle Dutch)
 - st (Dutch)

*-ist (Proto-West Germanic)

- est (Old English)
 - est (Middle English)
 - est (English)
 - est (Scots)

*-ist (Proto-West Germanic)

-st (Old Frisian)

-st (Saterland Frisian)

-st (West Frisian)

*-ist (Proto-West Germanic)

-ist (Old High German)

-est (Middle High German)

-st (German)

*-ist (Proto-West Germanic)

-ist (Old Saxon)

-est (Middle Low German)

-st (Low German)

-str (Old Norse)

-st (Danish)

-stur (Faroese)

-stur (Icelandic)

-st (Norwegian)

-str (Old Norse)

-ster (Old Swedish)

-st (Swedish)

-ists (-ists) (Gothic)

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Words mentioned in this entry

*-ōstaz suffix

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*-ōstaz suffix * -ōzô suffix *aftumistaz adjective