

**\*-lif** Runic: ᚗ | ᚗ Pronunciation: /liϕ/

suffix · forms numerals

## Function

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fossilized numeral-forming element found in Proto-Germanic *\*ainalif* (‘eleven’) and *\*twalif* (‘twelve’), originally meaning ‘left over’ after counting ten: literally ‘one left over’ and ‘two left over’

## Etymology

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A fossilized, non-productive second constituent of numeral compounds. Its ultimate source is disputed. Ringe (2017: 229–30) treats the problem cautiously: the forms can be explained from *\*-lip-*, the zero grade of Proto-Indo-European *\*leyp-*, which would connect the element with Proto-Germanic *\*libaną*; however, he notes that the Baltic parallels, Lithuanian *vienúolika* and *dvýlika*, point instead to *\*-likʷ-*, from PIE *\*leykʷ-*. Fulk (2018: 227–28) adopts the latter analysis more directly, deriving PGmc *\*-lif-* from *\*-likʷ-* and comparing the Lithuanian numeral type in *-lika*.

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## Related Words

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### Words mentioned in this entry

*\*libaną* verb

### Entries that mention this word

*\*ainalif* numeral