

***rattaz** Runic: ᚱᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ Pronunciation: /'rat.taz/

noun · masculine · a-stem

Meanings

rat

Etymology

The origin of this word (and the related *rattō) is uncertain. It may derive from Proto-Indo-European **Hreh₃d-* ('to scrape, gnaw, scratch') (whence e.g. Latin *rōdō* and possibly also, but more indirectly, Latin *rādō*), but this is disputed, and Klein says that such a connection does not exist. In view of Welsh *rhathu* ('to scrape; to chafe') (via Proto-Brythonic **rēθid* and earlier **ratteti* from Proto-Celtic **rasdeti* ('to scrape; to scratch'), cognate with Latin *rādō* ('to scrape')), an ancient Celtic derivative noun like **rattos* could conceivably be the source. The word may also go back to an unknown substrate language.

Kroonen notes that consonant variation is high in descendant languages, especially in the High German dialects (Middle High German *rate*, *radde*, *ratte*, *ratze*). Older etymological sources explained the Germanic words as borrowings from Romance, but it is now accepted that this is not the case; Kroonen even asserts that the Romance (and Celtic) words must be borrowed from Germanic. He considers it plausible, however—especially considering dialectal *Ratz*/*Ratze* ('polecat')—that the Germanic word originally referred to a different animal. The rat itself may have been unknown in Europe at a Proto-Germanic date.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	rattaz	rattōz, rattōs
Acc.	rattaꝥ	rattanz
Gen.	rattas, rattis	rattô
Dat.	rattai	rattamaz
Inst.	rattō	rattamiz
Voc.	ratt	rattōz, rattōs

Descendants

* ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
	* rato , * roto (Old Dutch)		
		ratte (Middle Dutch)	
			rat (Limburgish)
* ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
	* rato , * roto (Old Dutch)		
		ratte (Middle Dutch)	
			rat , rot (Dutch)
			rot (Afrikaans)
			rot , Kari'na: alata (Jersey Dutch)
			alátu (Saramaccan)
* ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
	* rato , * roto (Old Dutch)		
		ratte (Middle Dutch)	
			rat , rot (Dutch)
			rotto , roto (Negerhollands)
			roto (Virgin Islands Creole)
* ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
	rætt (Old English)		
		ratte , rotte , rat (Middle English)	
			rat (English)

			ratt, rat (Scots)
*ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
		rat (Old French)	
		rat (Middle French)	
		rat (French)	
		rat (Norman)	
*ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
		*rat (Old Frisian)	
		root (North Frisian)	
		rôt (West Frisian)	
*ratt (Proto-West Germanic)			
		rato (Old High German)	
		ratte, rate (Middle High German)	
		Ratte (German)	
		Rat (Luxembourgish)	
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)			
		*rato, *roto (Old Dutch)	
		ratte (Middle Dutch)	
		rat (Limburgish)	
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)			
		*rato, *roto (Old Dutch)	
		ratte (Middle Dutch)	
		rat, rot (Dutch)	
		rot (Afrikaans)	
		rot, Kari'na: alata (Jersey Dutch)	
		alátu (Saramaccan)	
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)			
		*rato, *roto (Old Dutch)	
		ratte (Middle Dutch)	
		rat, rot (Dutch)	
		rotto, roto (Negerhollands)	
		roto (Virgin Islands Creole)	
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)			
		rætt (Old English)	
		ratte, rotte, rat (Middle English)	
		rat (English)	

		ratt, rat (Scots)
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)		
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	rat (Norman)	
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)		
	*rat (Old Frisian)	
	root (North Frisian)	
	rôt (West Frisian)	
*ratō (Proto-West Germanic)		
	rato (Old High German)	
	ratte, rate (Middle High German)	
	Ratte (German)	
	Rat (Luxembourgish)	
rattus (Vulgar Latin)		
	ratu (Asturian)	
	rata (Catalan)	
	rato (Galician)	
	ratto (Italian)	
	rato (Portuguese)	
	rata, rato, ratón (Spanish)	
	Rattus, Rattus rattus (Translingual)	
rattus (Vulgar Latin)		
	rat, rate (Old French)	
	rat (Middle French)	
	rat (French)	
ratus (Vulgar Latin)		
	ratu (Asturian)	
	rata (Catalan)	
	rato (Galician)	
	ratto (Italian)	
	rato (Portuguese)	
	rata, rato, ratón (Spanish)	
	Rattus, Rattus rattus (Translingual)	
ratus (Vulgar Latin)		

rat, rate (Old French)

rat (Middle French)

rat (French)

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