

***wība** Runic: 𐌿 | 𐌿𐌿 Pronunciation: /'wi:.βǎ/

noun · neuter · a-stem

Meanings

1. woman
2. wife

Etymology

Unknown, with a number of disputed suggestions. One suggestion connects Tocharian A/B kip/kwīpe ('genitals, female pudenda') (perhaps also Albanian cipë ('sense of shame, membrane')), for a hypothetical Proto-Indo-European **g^hwīb^h-* ('pudenda').

Another suggestion connects Old English wæfan ('wrap, clothe'), Old Norse vífa ('wrap, veil') for a suggested original motive of "married woman wearing a scarf", though with no certain further cognates outside of Germanic.

Yet another suggestion connects Old High German weibon ('move to and fro'), Old Norse veifa ('swing, throw'), for a motive of "one who is moving busily; housekeeper, maidservant" (cf. German Weibel ('manservant, usher')).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	wībaꝥ	wībō
Acc.	wībaꝥ	wībō
Gen.	wības, wībīs	wībō̅
Dat.	wībai	wībamaz
Inst.	wībō	wībamiz
Voc.	wībaꝥ	wībō

Descendants

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīf (Old Dutch)
wijf (Middle Dutch)
wijf (Dutch)
wyf (Afrikaans)
wefi (Sranan Tongo)

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīf (Old English)
wif, wyf (Middle English)
wife (Scots)

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīf (Old English)
wif, wyf (Middle English)
wife (English)
wefi (Sranan Tongo)

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīf (Old English)
wif, wyf (Middle English)
wife (English)
ワイフ (waifu) (Japanese)
waifu (English)

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīf (Old Frisian)

wüf (North Frisian)

Wieuw (Saterland Frisian)

wiif, wyf (West Frisian)

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīb (Old High German)

wīp, wīf (Middle High German)

? (Alemannic German)

? (Bavarian)

Wiev, Wivv, Weiv (Central Franconian)

Weib (German)

bow (Vilamovian)

ווייב (vayb) (Yiddish)

***wīb** (Proto-West Germanic)

wīf (Old Saxon)

wīf (Middle Low German)

Wiev (German Low German)

Wief (Low German)

víf (Old Norse)

viv (Danish)

vív (Faroese)

víf (Icelandic)

viv (Norwegian Bokmål)

viv (Norwegian Nynorsk)

víf (Old Norse)

víf (Old Swedish)

viv, vif (Swedish)

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