

***Wōdanaz** Runic: ᚹᚩᚳᚠᚱᚰᚱᚱ Pronunciation: /'wɔː.ðɑ.nɑz/

proper noun · masculine · a-stem

Meanings

Woden or Odin, the Germanic supreme god. Identified in later times with the Roman god Mercury.

Etymology

Related to *wōdaz ('rage, manic inspiration'), from Proto-Indo-European **weh₂t-* ('to be excited'). Compare Old Norse óðr ('rage'), Dutch woede ('rage') and woeden ('to rage'), Irish fáidh, Latin vātēs.

English *Wednes* (in *Wednes-day*) is not an exact cognate but rather continues Proto-Germanic **Wōdinaz*, pre-Germanic **Wātenos*. (Old Norse *Óðinn*, however, due to its lack of umlaut, appears to continue **Wōdanaz* and the replacement of the suffix vowel appears to be secondary, (compare Proto-Norse *𐌹𐌿𐌰𐌿𐌹𐌰* (*haitinaR*) and *𐌸𐌹𐌿𐌰𐌿𐌹𐌰* (*slaginaR*), from **haitanaz* and **slaganaz*, respective past participles of **haitanaǵ* and **slahanaǵ*.)

This suggests a variation of the theonym in early Germanic, *Wōdanaz vs. *Wōdinaz. The form with -i- as attested in Old Frisian *wednesdei* appears to have been present in Frisia (cf. also similar Middle Dutch *wenesdach*). The situation in Old English is unclear. The attested Old English forms point to *Wōdanaz, but i-umlauted forms surface in records after the end of the Old English period. Thus, *wōdnesdæg* is replaced by continuations of **wēdnesdæg* around AD 1200.

The same transition to the unlauted form of the theonym during the 12th or early 13th century (early Middle English) is also found in English placenames, such as (Wednesleg ca. 1212, earlier Wodnesleie), (Wednesbiri 1227, earlier Wadnesberie, Wodnesberia), (Wednesfeld 1251, earlier Wodnesfelde).

Based on an Old English form *Ōdon*, which appears to have been borrowed from Old Danish, Schaffner deduces that the original shape of the theonym was likely **Wōdunaz* rather than **Wōdanaz*.

The oldest attestation of the theonym, Proto-Norse ᚹᚩᚳᚢᚰᚾᚰ (wodnas) from the Vindelev bracteate X13 (c. 5th century), suggests a fourth possibility, *Wōdnaz, although this would require independent i-insertion in both Proto-/Old Norse (after i-mutation had run its course) and proto-Anglo Frisian (before i-mutation had begun). It is conceivable that such a change could have originated in one of the two groups and spread through diffusion to the other (since these are the two northernmost branches of Proto-Germanic).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	Wōdanaz	—
Acc.	Wōdanaꝥ	—
Gen.	Wōdanas, Wōdanis	—
Dat.	Wōdanai	—
Inst.	Wōdanō	—
Voc.	Wōdan	—

Descendants

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

Godan, ***Wōdan** (Lombardic)

Godan (Latin)

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

Wuodan, Wuadan, ***Wuotan** (Old Dutch)

***Woeden**, ***Woen** (Middle Dutch)

Woen (Dutch)

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

Wōden, ***Wēden**, ***Wæden**, Wodæn, Woddan (Old English)

Woden (English)

Wothen (Latin)

Woden (Middle English)

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

***Wēden, *Wēda** (Old Frisian)

Wedke (North Frisian)

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

? (Old High German)

Wodan (Dutch)

Vōdanus (Latin)

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

? (Old High German)

Wotan, Wodan, Wuodan, Wuotan (German)

Wotan (English)

***Wōdan** (Proto-West Germanic)

Wōden (Old Saxon)

Wode (Middle Low German)

***Wōdin** (Proto-West Germanic)

Godan, *Wōdan (Lombardic)

Godan (Latin)

***Wōdin** (Proto-West Germanic)

Wuodan, Wuadan, *Wuotan (Old Dutch)

***Woeden, *Woen** (Middle Dutch)

Woen (Dutch)

***Wōdin** (Proto-West Germanic)

Wōden, *Wēden, *Woeden, Wodæn, Woddan (Old English)

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Wothen (Latin)

Woden (Middle English)

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Wedke (North Frisian)

***Wōdin** (Proto-West Germanic)

? (Old High German)

Wodan (Dutch)

Vōdanus (Latin)

***Wōdin** (Proto-West Germanic)

? (Old High German)

Wotan, Wodan, Wuodan, Wuotan (German)

Wotan (English)

***Wōdin** (Proto-West Germanic)

Wōden (Old Saxon)

Wode (Middle Low German)

𐌚𐌛𐌚 | 𐌚𐌚𐌚 (wodinār) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, ᚢᚦᚱᚦ (uþin), ᚦᚦᚦᚦ (oþen) (Old Norse)

Óðin (Faroese)

Óðinn (Icelandic)

Oden, ons-, Odin (Norwegian Nynorsk)

Ōpen, Ōðon, Ōwðen (Old English)

Ódin (Portuguese)

Óдин (Ódin) (Russian)

Odín (Spanish)

𐌵𐌿𐌸𐌸𐌰 | 𐌵𐌿𐌸𐌰 (wodinār) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, ᚠᚢ ᚦ (uþin), ᚦᚢ ᚦᚦ (open) (Old Norse)

Odin (Danish)

		Odin (Norwegian Bokmål)
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𐀃𐀆𐀆𐀆 | 𐀃𐀆𐀆 (wodinar) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, ᚠᚢ ᚦ (uþin), ᚦᚢ ᚦᚦ (oþen) (Old Norse)

Odin (English)

奥丁 (Àodīng), 奥丁 (Àodīng) (Chinese)

オーディン (Ōdin) (Japanese)

𐀃𐀆𐀗𐀚 | 𐀃𐀆𐀗 (wodinar) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, 𐌺𐌿𐌳𐌹𐌸 (uþin), 𐌿𐌵𐌹𐌸 (open) (Old Norse)

Odin (German)

Odin (French)

𐀃𐀆𐀗𐀚 | 𐀃𐀆𐀗 (wodinar) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, ᚠᚢᚦᚢ (uþin), ᚠᚢᚦᚢ (open) (Old Norse)

Ōthinus, Ōdinus, Ōthin (Latin)

Odino (Italian)

𐀃𐀆𐀓 | 𐀃𐀆𐀓 (wodinar) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, ᚢᚦᚢᚦ (uþin), ᚦᚦᚦᚦ (oþen) (Old Norse)

Odhen (Old Danish)

Oden (Danish)

Óðen, Nóðen (Scanian)

𐌚𐌛𐌚 | 𐌚𐌚𐌚 (wodinaz) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Öþin, Ödhen, Ödhin (Old Swedish)
Oden (Swedish)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinar) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Odin (Swedish)
Odin (Finnish)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Óðin (Faroese)
Óðinn (Icelandic)
Oden, ons-, Odin (Norwegian Nynorsk)
Öþen, Öðon, Öwðen (Old English)
Ódin (Portuguese)
ОДИН (Ódin) (Russian)
Odín (Spanish)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Odin (Danish)
Odin (Norwegian Bokmål)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Odin (English)
奥丁 (Àodīng), 奥丁 (Àodīng) (Chinese)
オーディン (Ōdin) (Japanese)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Odin (German)
Odin (French)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Ōthinus, Ōdinus, Ōthin (Latin)
Odino (Italian)

𐌿𐌿𐌸ᚢᚲᚢ (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)
Óðinn, ᚷᚢᚲᚢ (uḃin), ᚢᚢᚢᚢ (oḃen) (Old Norse)
Odhen (Old Danish)

Oden (Danish)

Óðen, Nóðen (Scanian)

𐀧𐀭𐀢𐀺𐀢𐀺𐀢𐀺 (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, 𐀧𐀺𐀢𐀺 (uþin), 𐀧𐀺𐀢𐀺 (oþen) (Old Norse)

Öþin, Ödhen, Ödhin (Old Swedish)

Oden (Swedish)

𐀧𐀭𐀢𐀺𐀢𐀺𐀢𐀺 (wodinr) (Proto-Norse)

Óðinn, 𐀧𐀺𐀢𐀺 (uþin), 𐀧𐀺𐀢𐀺 (oþen) (Old Norse)

Odin (Swedish)

Odin (Finnish)

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