

***-ē** Runic: 𐌿 Pronunciation: /ɛ:/

suffix · forms adverbs

Function

forms adverbs of manner from adjectives, like English “-ly”

Etymology

Uncertain. Sometimes cited as **-ê* (overlong/trimoric e). Fulk (2018: 238–39) describes the common adverbial suffixes as Proto-Germanic **-ē* in alternation with **-ō*, reflecting an o-stem ablative singular inflection, Proto-Indo-European **-ēd* ~ **-ōd*, giving PGmc **-ēt* ~ **-ōt* with eventual loss of the final dental. He notes, however, that the evidence for **-ēd* is poor. Kieckers (1960: 94) derives this variant from PIE instrumental *-ē* (**eh₁*). Weiss (2009: 361), commenting on adverbial forming Latin *ē*, also suggests that it is possible that the *-d* is secondary and that these forms reflect the PIE instrumental **-eh₁*, connecting the Latin suffix directly with PGmc. Fulk (2018: 238) notes that, in the descendants, Anglo-Frisian favored the **-ē* variant, while the other daughter languages favored **-ō* for adverbial formation. In addition to Latin, compare Proto-Slavic **-ě₂*, a deadjectival adverb-forming suffix continued by Old Church Slavonic *-ě*, historically from a fossilized locative singular ending (Kahl 2024: 136–41). The Slavic formation is not necessarily directly cognate with the PGmc ending (though Kahl notes the possibility that an original adverbial formation from instrumental **-ě₁* < PIE **-eh₁* may have been simply replaced by or merged with the **-ě₂* formation). In any case, it provides a close Indo-European parallel for the development of adverbial suffixes from petrified nominal case forms.

Descendants

**-ē* (Proto-West Germanic)

-e (Old Frisian)

**-ē* (Proto-West Germanic)

-e (Old English)

-e (Middle English)

-e (-ē) (Gothic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)