

***ēbanþs** Runic: ᚱᚷᚠᚦᚦᚦᚦ Pronunciation: /'ɛ:.βanθs/

noun · masculine · consonant stem

Meanings

evening

Etymology

Uncertain. Following Hamp's analysis (Lloyd & Springer 1988-2014), adopted by (Kroonen 2013), *ēbanþs may continue an earlier acrostatic formation based on an innovative nt-stem, *h₁éh₁pt-ont-s ~ *h₁h₁pt-nt-ós, with strong cases yielding West Proto-Germanic *ēbanþ- and weak cases ultimately reflected in North Proto-Germanic *aft-/apt-. In this account, the West Proto-Germanic forms reflect a dissimilated oblique formation *h₁eh₁pt-ont- > *h₁eh₁p-ont-, in which the first dental of *-pt-ont- was lost before regular Proto-Germanic sound changes produced *ēbanþ- ~ *ēbund-. The North Proto-Germanic forms are then explained from the zero-grade *h₁h₁pt-nt-ós, with vocalization of the syllabic laryngeal to *a and development of *pt to *ft by Grimm's Law; the resulting *aft-/apt- stem was generalized in North Proto-Germanic. This explanation is attractive because it elegantly accounts for the otherwise difficult split between West Proto-Germanic *ēb-/āb- and North Proto-Germanic *aft-/apt-.

(Beekes 1996a:231–32: 231–32) instead treats the word as a probable ancient European loanword, emphasizing that the suffixal type in *-ont- is rare in Proto-Germanic and may point to borrowing rather than inheritance. His strongest argument is the distribution of the vowels: the long vowel occurs before single *-p- in the open-syllable type, while the short vowel occurs before *-pt-, a pattern which he compares with other suspected substrate loanwords and regards as evidence that the alternation originated in a substratum rather than in PIE ablaut, as vowel shifts dependent on syllable weight are highly unusual for primary Indo-European nominal derivations but are typical of loanwords adapted from languages with different prosodic systems. He reconstructs a European substrate form, approximately *apt-an(t)- ~ *āp-an(t)- ('evening'), with the foreign vowel later adapted differently in Proto-Germanic. The root *h₁eh₁pt, in any case, cannot be of Proto-Indo-European origin (Šorgo 2020).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	ēbanþs	ēbanþiz
Acc.	ēbanþu	ēbanþunz
Gen.	ēbundiz	ēbundô
Dat.	ēbundi	ēbundumaz
Inst.	ēbundē	ēbundumiz
Voc.	ēbanþ	ēbanþiz

Descendants

*ābanþ (Proto-West Germanic)

avont (Old Dutch)

avont, avent (Middle Dutch)

aovendj (Limburgish)

*ābanþ (Proto-West Germanic)

avont (Old Dutch)

avont, avent (Middle Dutch)

avond (Dutch)

aand (Afrikaans)

*ābanþ (Proto-West Germanic)

ǣfen, ǣften, ēfen, ēfern (Old English)

even, evene, efen (Middle English)

even (English)

evin (Scots)

*ābanþ (Proto-West Germanic)

ēvend, āvend, āiond, iound, iond (Old Frisian)

In (North Frisian)

Äivend, Äiwend, Eeuwend, Eeuend (Saterland Frisian)

jûn (West Frisian)

*ābanþ (Proto-West Germanic)

āband (Old High German)

- ābent** (Middle High German)
- Obad, Obid** (Alemannic German)
- Oovend** (Central Franconian)
- Ohmd, Oomd** (East Central German)
- Abend** (German)
- Oabend** (North Frisian)
- Owed, Owend** (Rhine Franconian)
- אָװנט (ovnt)** (Yiddish)

***ābanþ** (Proto-West Germanic)

- āvand** (Old Saxon)
- āvent** (Middle Low German)
- Avend** (Low German)
- Avend** (Low German)

aftann, aptann, aptunn, eptann (Old Norse)

- aftan** (Faroese)
- aftann** (Icelandic)
- aftan, eftan, apta, afta, efta** (Norwegian Nynorsk)

aftann, aptann, aptunn, eptann (Old Norse)

- aftæn** (Old Danish)
- aften** (Danish)
- aften** (Norwegian Bokmål)

aftann, aptann, aptunn, eptann (Old Norse)

- afton, aftan, apton, aptan** (Old Swedish)
- afton** (Swedish)

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