

***-ō** Runic:  Pronunciation: /õ:/

suffix · forms nouns · feminine · ōn-stem

Function

like modern English “-ess”; forms feminine agent and personal nouns, often corresponding to masculine *-ô or *-jô

Etymology

From Early Germanic *-ōn-, the feminine counterpart to the masculine an-stem agentive/individualizing suffix *-ô. The suffix reflects a Proto-Germanic convergence of Proto-Indo-European *-ō(n)- with feminine éh₂-stems. The feminine ōn-stems are generally regarded as largely innovative in PGmc ([Kroonen 2011a: 36–38](#); [Fulk 2018: 171–72](#)). Ringe (2017: 307) notes that the PGmc nominative singular of the innovative feminine n-stems cannot be securely recovered, and that Northwest Germanic *-ō may itself be analogical from the oblique *-ōn- stem.

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-ō	-ōniz
Acc.	-ōnu	-ōnunz
Gen.	-ōniz	-ōnô
Dat.	-ōni	-ōmaz
Inst.	-ōnē	-ōmiz
Voc.	-ō	-ōniz

Descendants

*-ā (Proto-West Germanic)

- a (Old Dutch)
 - e (Middle Dutch)
 - e (Dutch)

*-ā (Proto-West Germanic)

- e (Old English)
 - e (Middle English)

*-ā (Proto-West Germanic)

- e (Old Frisian)
 - e (West Frisian)

*-ā (Proto-West Germanic)

- a (Old High German)
 - e (Middle High German)
 - e (German)

*-ā (Proto-West Germanic)

- a (Old Saxon)
 - e (Middle Low German)

-a (Old Norse)

- a (Faroese)
- a (Icelandic)
- a (Norwegian Nynorsk)

-a (Old Norse)

- e (Danish)
 - e (Norwegian Bokmål)

-a (Old Norse)

- a (Old Swedish)
 - a (Swedish)

-ǫ (-ō) (Gothic)

*-ū (Vandalic)

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Entries that mention this word

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