

Cognates & Sound Changes

Gothic	Old English	PDE	Old Norse	German
anþar	ōþer	other	annarr	andere
bōka	bōc	book	bók	Buch
daúr	duru	door	dyrr	Tür
*gans	gōs	goose	gás	Gans
haítan	hātan	hight	heita	heissen
haubib	heafod	head	hōfuð	Haupt
hauhs	heah	high	há	hoch
hūs	hūs	house	hús	Haus
manna	mann	man	maðr	Mann
mēnōþs	mōnaþ	month	mánaðr	Monat
namō	nama	name	nafn	Name
skip	scip	ship	skip	Schiff
smiþōn	smiþian	smithy	smiða	schmieden
stains	stān	stone	steinn	Stein
timrjan	timbrian	timber	timbra	zimmern
twai	twēgen	two	tveir	zwei
twalif	twelf	twelve	tólf	zwölf
þaírh	þurh	through	—	durch
waírþ	weorþ	worth	verð	Wert
waúrd	word	word	orð	Wort
weif, wīf	wīf	wife	víf	Weib
wulfs	wulf	wolf	úlfr	Wolf

1. What happened to *through* in English?
2. What happened to /w/ before non-open back vowels in North Germanic?
3. What happened to /w/ elsewhere in North Germanic?
4. What happened to <nþ>- and <ns>-combinations in English, and when?
5. What happened to word-final dental fricatives in German?
6. What happened to final /n/ in North Germanic infinitives? Can you guess why?
7. Why do you think a number of Gothic nouns end in -s where their cognates do not?
8. Can you explain the Old Norse form *maðr*?
9. What caused the consonant clusters in *timbrian*, *timbra*?
10. What happened to the word for *head* in German? What about English?
11. What other consonant changes can you find for German?