AIFreeForever

The English to Old Norse Guide for 2026

Old Norse is the language of the Vikings, spoken from about 800 to 1300. This guide shows the six uses and four styles of the free English to Norse Translator, the 16 runes of the Younger Futhark, how to say Old Norse letters, common words, and a checklist before a tattoo.

Pick the use and the style

Use	What you get
Character Name	Names built from Old Norse words, with what each part means
Battle Cry	Short, strong, commanding phrases
Rune Phrase	Short phrases to carve, like runestone inscriptions
Tattoo Inspiration	Short, meaningful phrases, checked for grammar
Mythological Reference	The gods, Asgard and Valhalla with their real Old Norse names
General Translation	The English meaning as closely as possible

- **Literal:** direct and accurate, word for word where the grammar allows.
- **Poetic / Symbolic:** the spirit of the words, sometimes a kenning (a poetic name like "whale road" for the sea).
- **Fierce & Warrior-like:** strong, powerful words.
- **Mysterious / Arcane:** words of magic, runes and fate.

Old Norse (Classic) uses words found in the sagas, the Eddas and on runestones. **Norse-Inspired (Fantasy)** uses easier spellings for stories and games, and the translator says it is not attested Old Norse.

The 16 runes of the Younger Futhark

Vikings wrote with these 16 runes from the 9th to the 11th century. One rune stands for several sounds, and double letters are written once.

Rune	Name	Sounds	Rune	Name	Sounds
ᚠ	fé	f, v	ᚾ	nauðr	n
ᚢ	úr	u, o, y, ø, w	ᛁ	íss	i, e, j
ᚦ	þurs	þ, ð (th)	ᛅ	ár	a, æ
ᚬ	áss	o, nasal a	ᛋ	sól	s
ᚱ	reið	r	ᛏ	týr	t, d
ᚴ	kaun	k, g, ng	ᛒ	bjarkan	b, p
ᚼ	hagall	h	ᛘ	maðr	m
ᛚ	lǫgr	l	ᛦ	yr	final R

How to say Old Norse letters

- **þ** sounds like th in "thin". **ð** sounds like th in "this".
- **á, é, í, ó, ú** are long vowels: say them longer.
- **j** sounds like y in "yes". **r** is rolled.
- **æ** is close to the vowel in "air". **ø** and **ǫ** are rounded vowels, like German ö and the o in "pot".

Common words

English	Old Norse	Runes	English	Old Norse	Runes
Wolf	Úlfr	ᚢᛚᚠᚱ	Sword	Sverð	ᛋᚢᛁᚱᚦ
Raven	Hrafn	ᚼᚱᛅᚠᚾ	Iron	Járn	ᛁᛅᚱᚾ
Victory	Sigr	ᛋᛁᚠᚱ	Fire	Eldr	ᛁᛚᛏᚱ
Strength	Styrkr	ᛋᛏᚢᚱᚴᚱ	Heart	Hjarta	ᚼᛁᛅᚱᛏᛅ

Checklist before a tattoo

- Use a short phrase: 1 to 5 words translate best