

féin

See also: [fein](#), [fèin](#), [feîn](#), [féin-](#) and [fèin-](#)

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Irish

Etymology 1

From [Old Irish](#) *féin*, from [Proto-Celtic](#) **swe-* (from [Proto-Indo-European](#) **swé* (“oneself”)) + **sin* (anaphoric pronoun).^[1]

Alternative forms

- [héin](#), [fhéin](#), [péin](#)

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /he:nj/, /fʲe:nj/

Pronoun

féin

1. self

mé féin — myself (both emphatic and reflexive)
sinn féin — ourselves; we ourselves

2. own

mo theach féin — my own house

Derived terms

- féin-
- Sinn Féin

Adverb

féin

1. even, only

má tá féin — even if it is

Etymology 2

Noun

féin

1. *inflection of féan:*

1. vocative and genitive singular
2. nominative and dative plural

Mutation

Irish mutation		
Radical	Lenition	Eclipsis
féin	fhéin	bhféin

Note: Some of these forms may be hypothetical. Not every possible mutated form of every word actually occurs.

Further reading

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- “féin” (http://corpas.ria.ie/index.php?fsg_word=f%C3%A9in&fsg_pos=All&fsg_class=W&fsg_pp=Both&fsg_years=1600-1926&fsg_function=10) at the *Historical Irish Corpus, 1600–1926* of the Royal Irish Academy.
- “féin” (<https://archive.org/stream/irishenglishdict00dinniala#page/308/mode/2up>) in *Foclóir Gaeilge agus Béarla*, Irish Texts Society, 1st ed., 1904, by [Patrick S. Dinneen](#), page 308.
- “féin (<http://www.teanglann.ie/en/fgb/f%C3%A9in>)” in *Foclóir Gaeilge–Béarla, An Gúm*, 1977, by [Niall Ó Dónaill](#).

References

1. ^ Peter Schrijver (1997) *Studies in the History of Celtic Pronouns and Particles* (Maynooth Studies in Celtic Linguistics; II), Maynooth: The Department of Old Irish, National University of Ireland, →ISBN, § III.2, pages 75–76
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Old Irish

Etymology

From Proto-Celtic **swe-* (from Proto-Indo-European **swé* (“oneself”)) + **sin* (anaphoric pronoun).^[1]

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /fʲeːnʲ/

Pronoun

féin

1. self
2. (*adjectival*) one's own

Inflection

	féin	fadéin	céin	cadéin
1 sg.	féin	<u>fadéin</u>	<u>céin</u>	<u>cadéin</u>
2 sg.	féin	<u>fadéin</u>	—	—
3 sg. m./n.	<u>fes(s)in</u> , <u>feis(s)in</u> féin	<u>fades(s)in</u> , <u>fadeis(s)in</u> <u>fadéne</u>	<u>ces(s)in</u> , <u>ceis(s)in</u>	<u>cadés(s)in</u> , <u>cadeis(s)in</u>
3 sg. f.	<u>fes(s)in</u> , <u>feis(s)in</u> , <u>fissin</u> <u>fes(s)ine</u> , <u>feisine</u> , <u>feis(s)ne</u>	<u>fadisin</u> <u>fade(is)sne</u>	—	—
1 pl.	<u>fes(s)ine</u>	<u>fanis(s)in</u>	—	<u>canisin</u>
2 pl.	<u>fes(s)in</u> , <u>feis(s)in</u> <u>feis(s)ne</u>	<u>fanis(s)in</u>	—	—
3 pl.	<u>fes(s)in</u> , <u>feis(s)in</u> <u>fes(s)ine</u> , <u>feisine</u> , <u>feis(s)ne</u>	<u>fades(s)in</u> , <u>fadeis(s)in</u> , <u>fedesin</u> <u>fades(s)ine</u> , <u>fadeisine</u> , <u>fadeis(s)ne</u>	<u>ceisne</u>	<u>cadés(s)in</u> , <u>cadeis(s)in</u> <u>cadés(s)ine</u> , <u>cadeisine</u> , <u>cadésne</u>

Usage notes

The difference between the *féin/céin* set and the *fadéin/cadéin* set appears to be that the latter are contrastively reflexive (‘oneself as opposed to someone else’) while the former do not suggest any contrast. The difference between the *f*- forms and the *c*- forms may be that the latter have a connotation of ‘even/also oneself’ that the former do not have.^[2]

Mutation

Old Irish mutation		
Radical	Lenition	Nasalization
féin	féin	féin <i>pronounced with /v(ʰ)-/</i>
Note: Some of these forms may be hypothetical. Not every possible mutated form of every word actually occurs.		

Further reading

- Gregory Toner, Maire Ní Mhaonaigh, Sharon Arbuthnot, Dagmar Wodtko, Maire-Luise Theuerkauf, editors (2019) , “fadéin, féin (<http://dil.ie/20990>)”, in *eDIL: Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language*
- Thurneysen, Rudolf (1940, reprinted 2003) D. A. Binchy and Osborn Bergin, transl., *A Grammar of Old Irish*, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, → ISBN, § 485, pages 306–7
- Pedersen, Holger (1913) *Vergleichende Grammatik der keltischen Sprachen* (in German), volume II, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, → ISBN, page 153 (<https://archive.org/stream/vergleichendegra02pede#page/153/mode/2up>)

References

1. ^ Peter Schrijver (1997) *Studies in the History of Celtic Pronouns and Particles* (Maynooth Studies in Celtic Linguistics; II), Maynooth: The Department of Old Irish, National University of Ireland, →ISBN, § III.2, pages 75–76
 2. ^ Peter Schrijver (1997) *Studies in the History of Celtic Pronouns and Particles* (Maynooth Studies in Celtic Linguistics; II), Maynooth: The Department of Old Irish, National University of Ireland, →ISBN, §§ III.2, III.4, pages 72, 78–83
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Old Norse

Noun

féin

1. *definite nominative/accusative plural of fé*
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