

Using the Chicago Homer to Compare and Investigate Greek Terms

One of the tools available online to help with word studies is the Chicago Homer. This document provides worked examples of how to compare Greek terms that have similar meanings, and investigate how and where they are used.

What is the Chicago Homer?

The site describes itself as “a multilingual database that uses the search and display capabilities of electronic texts to make the distinctive features of Early Greek epic accessible to readers with and without Greek.”

Texts available are:

- *Iliad*
- *Odyssey*
- *Theogony*
- *Works & Days*
- *Shield of Herakles*
- *Homeric Hymns*

If you do not know any Greek, or very little, you might find the line-by-line translations useful. Please note, however, that these translations are under copyright so these notes will cite only very short passages.

Types of Investigation

Amongst other things, you can use Chicago Homer to:

- Browse for particular passages in a given text: (see pt 1)
- Compare and investigate Greek terms (this guide)
- Track phrases: (see pt 3)
- Carry out searches for related words (see pt 4):
- Perform detailed searches (see pt 5)

Please see the other guides in this series for more details. There is also a video demonstration on Hour 25: <http://hour25.heroesx.chs.harvard.edu/?p=9128>

Comparing and Investigating Greek Terms: Summary of Steps

In the Chicago Homer:

1. Navigate to a passage you are interested in
2. Select the English translation of the term
3. Investigate the exact meaning of the Greek terms
4. Locate passages that use the term

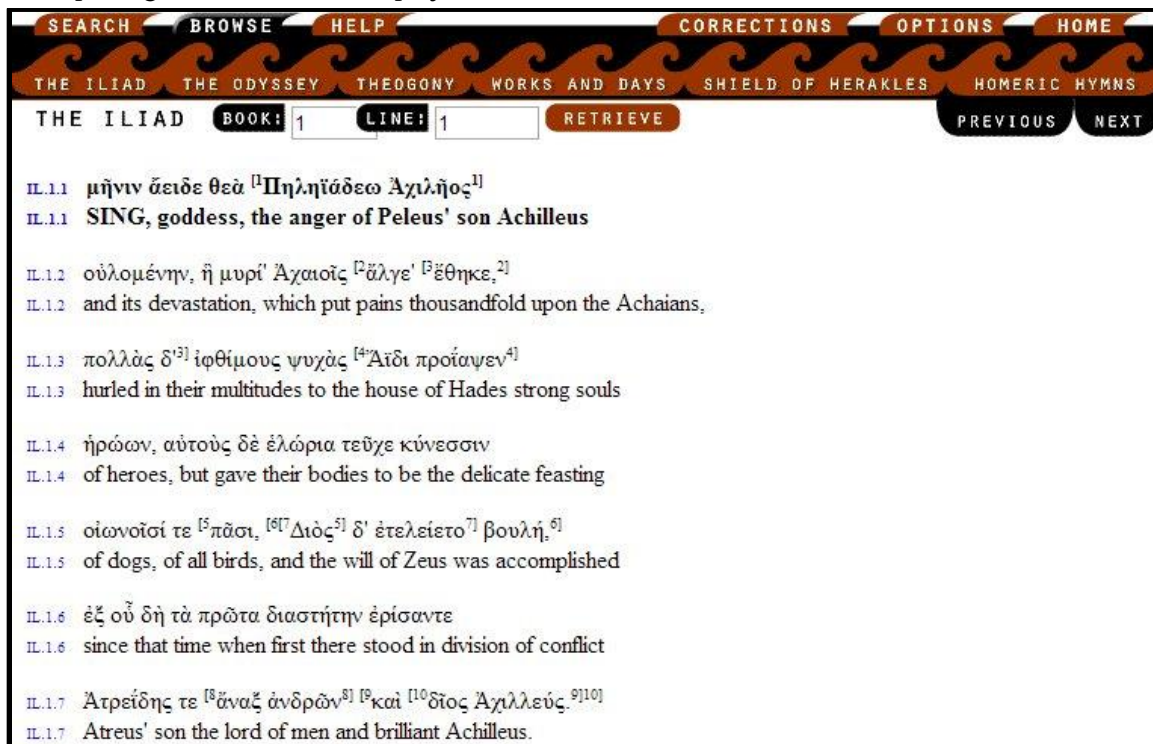
Comparing and Investigating Greek Terms: Worked Example

If you do not already have the Chicago Homer open, follow this link, then click ENTER:

<http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/homer/>

1. Select the **Browse** option, and select **Iliad**.
2. Type **1** for 'Book' and **1** for 'Line', then click **Retrieve**.

The opening lines of *Iliad* are displayed.



SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

THE ILIAD THE ODYSSEY THEOGONY WORKS AND DAYS SHIELD OF HERAKLES HOMERIC HYMNS

THE ILIAD BOOK: 1 LINE: 1 RETRIEVE PREVIOUS NEXT

IL.1.1 μῆνιν ἄειδε θεὰ Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος¹
IL.1.1 SING, goddess, the anger of Peleus' son Achilles

IL.1.2 οὐλομένην, ἣ μυρὶ Ἀχαιοῖς ἄλγε' ἔθηκε,²
IL.1.2 and its devastation, which put pains thousandfold upon the Achaians,

IL.1.3 πολλὰς δ' ἰφθίμους ψυχὰς Ἄϊδι προΐαψεν⁴
IL.1.3 hurled in their multitudes to the house of Hades strong souls

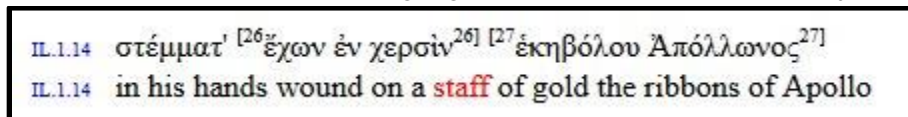
IL.1.4 ἡρώων, αὐτοὺς δὲ ἐλώρια τεῦχε κύνεσσιν
IL.1.4 of heroes, but gave their bodies to be the delicate feasting

IL.1.5 οἰωνοῖσι τε πᾶσι, Διὸς δ' ἐτελείετο βουλή,⁶
IL.1.5 of dogs, of all birds, and the will of Zeus was accomplished

IL.1.6 ἐξ οὗ δὴ τὰ πρῶτα διαστήτην ἐρίσαντε
IL.1.6 since that time when first there stood in division of conflict

IL.1.7 Ἄτρείδης τε ἄναξ ἀνδρῶν⁸ καὶ Ἰδοῖος Ἀχιλλεύς^{9,10}
IL.1.7 Atreus' son the lord of men and brilliant Achilles.

3. Scroll down to find line 14, then hover the mouse along the line of the English translation. You will see that certain words are highlighted in red, to indicate that they are active.



IL.1.14 στέμματ' ἔχων ἐν χερσίν²⁶ ἑκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος²⁷
IL.1.14 in his hands wound on a staff of gold the ribbons of Apollo

4. Click on the word **hands** in line 14.
A list of Greek terms that have been translated as 'hand(s)' is displayed at the right-hand side.

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

THE ILIAD THE ODYSSEY THEOGONY WORKS AND DAYS SHIELD OF HERAKLES HOMERIC HYMNS

THE ILIAD BOOK: 1 LINE: 1 RETRIEVE PREVIOUS NEXT

IL.1.9 Δητοῦς ^{11,3}καὶ ¹¹⁴Ἰ12 Διὸς ¹³υἱός ¹³·13] ¹⁴δ14 γὰρ βασιλῆϊ χολωθεὶς
 IL.1.9 Zeus' son and Leto's, Apollo, who in anger at the king drove

IL.1.10 νοῦσον ἀνὰ στρατὸν ¹⁶ᾧρσε ¹⁶κακίην, ¹⁶ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοί,
 IL.1.10 the foul pestilence along the host, and the people perished,

IL.1.11 οὔνεκα τὸν Χρῦσιον ἠτίμασεν ἀρητῆρα
 IL.1.11 since Atreus' son had dishonoured Chryses, priest of Apollo,

IL.1.12 Ἄτρείδης· ὃ γὰρ ¹⁷ἠ18 ἦλθε ¹⁹ἠ20 θοάς ²¹ἐπὶ ²²νήας ¹⁸ἠ20] Ἀχαιῶν ¹⁷ἠ9] ²¹ἠ21] ²²ἠ22]
 IL.1.12 when he came beside the fast ships of the Achaians to ransom

IL.1.13 ²³λυσόμενός τε θύγατρα φέρων ²⁴τ' ²⁵ἀπερείσι' ἄποινα, ²⁴ἠ25]
 IL.1.13 back his daughter, carrying gifts beyond count and holding

IL.1.14 στέμματ' ²⁶ἔχων ἐν χερσίν ²⁶ἠ27 ἐκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος ²⁷ἠ27]
 IL.1.14 in his hands wound on a staff of gold the ribbons of Apollo

IL.1.15 χρυσέω ἀνὰ σκήπτρῳ, καὶ ἐλίσσεται ²⁸πάντας Ἀχαιοῦς, ²⁸ἠ28]
 IL.1.15 who strikes from afar, and supplicated all the Achaians,

IL.1.16 Ἄτρεΐδα δὲ μάλιστα δύο, ²⁹κοσμήτορε λαῶν, ²³ἠ29]
 IL.1.16 but above all Atreus' two sons, the marshals of the people:

IL.1.17 ³⁰ἠ31] Ἀτρεΐδαι τε ³²καὶ ³³ἄλλοι ³¹ἠ34] ³⁴εὐκνήμιδες Ἀχαιοί, ³⁰ἠ32] ³³ἠ34]
 IL.1.17 'Sons of Atreus and you other strong-greaved Achaians,

'hands'
[LSJ palamê](#) [noun] (28)
[LSJ cheir](#) [noun] (729)

5. From this list we can see that the more frequent Greek term is *cheir* with 729 occurrences in the Homeric/Hesiodic works. Look at the Greek in line 14, and notice that the word *χερσίν* [*chersin*] appears, which is a form of the word *χείρ* [*cheir*].

IL.1.13 ²³λυσόμενός τε θύγατρα φέρων ²⁴τ' ²⁵ἀπερείσι' ἄποινα, ²⁴ἠ25]
 IL.1.13 back his daughter, carrying gifts beyond count and holding


IL.1.14 στέμματ' ²⁶ἔχων ἐν *χερσίν* ²⁶ἠ27 ἐκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος ²⁷ἠ27]
 IL.1.14 in his hands wound on a staff of gold the ribbons of Apollo

'hands'
[LSJ palamê](#) [noun] (28)
[LSJ cheir](#) [noun] (729)

6. To find out what the difference is between the two Greek terms, we can look at the dictionary entries.

Click first on the [LSJ](#) link next to **cheir**:

The 'Greek Dictionary Headword Search Results' page in Perseus is displayed in a new tab:




Greek Dictionary Headword Search Results

[Home](#) [Collections/Texts](#) [Perseus Catalog](#) [Research](#) [Grants](#)

Your search returned 1 result.

Lemma	Dictionaries
χείρ	LSJ , Middle Liddell , Slater , Autenrieth

7. Select one of the dictionaries. In this example we will look at the definition in Autenrieth. We can see that the word means hand, fist, hand including the arm, and that it is figuratively related to strength or violence.



Georg Autenrieth, *A Homeric Dictionary*

[Home](#) [Collections/Texts](#) [Perseus Catalog](#) [Research](#) [Grants](#) [Open Source](#)

Your current position in the text is marked in blue. Click anywhere in the line to jump to another position:

alphabetic letter:
 entry group:
 entry:

This text is part of:

[Greek and Roman Materials](#)

View text chunked by:

[first letter](#) : [entry](#)
[entry](#)

Table of Contents:

- [▶ A](#)
- [▶ B](#)

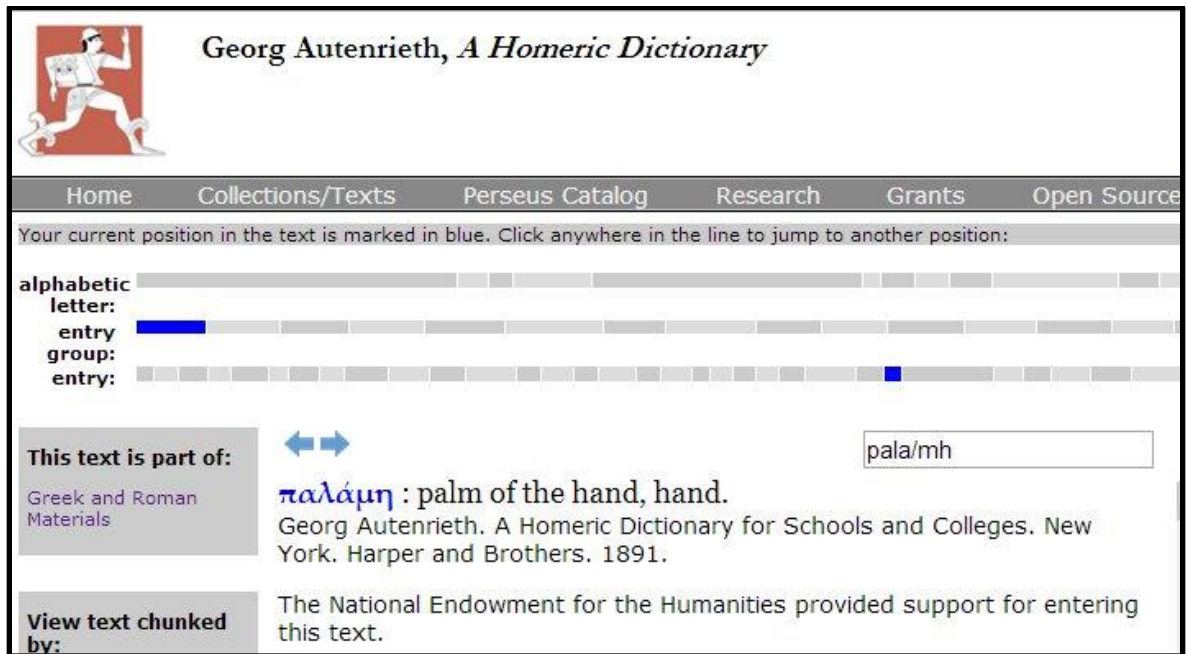
↔

χείρ, χειρός, besides the usual forms also dat. **χερί**, pl. dat. **χείρῃσσι** and **χείρῃσι** (**Il. 20.468**): hand, as flat hand or fist, **Od. 12.174**; including the arm, **Il. 6.81**, **Od. 1.238**; often the pl., esp. fig. as typical of strength, violence, etc., joined with μένος, βίη, δύναμις, **Il. 6.502**, **Il. 12.135**, **Od. 20.237**; **χερσίν τε ποσίν τε καὶ σθένει**, **Il. 20.360**; **χεῖρα ἐπιφέρειν τινί**, **χειρας ἐφιέναι**, **ιάλλειν**, **χερσίν ἀρήγειν**, **χεῖρα ὑπερέχειν τινί**, in defence, **Il. 4.249**; (εἰς) **χειρας ἰκέσθαι**, 'fall into the power,' **Il. 10.448**.
 Georg Autenrieth. *A Homeric Dictionary for Schools and Colleges*. New York. Harper and Brothers. 1891.

The National Endowment for the Humanities provided support for entering this text.

8. Back at Chicago Homer, click on the **LSJ** link next to **palamê**.

9. In the 'Greek Dictionary Headword Search Results' page in Perseus, look at the dictionary entry for **παλάμη**. We can see that this word means palm of the hand, or hand generally.



Georg Autenrieth, *A Homeric Dictionary*

Home Collections/Texts Perseus Catalog Research Grants Open Source

Your current position in the text is marked in blue. Click anywhere in the line to jump to another position:

alphabetic letter: entry: group: entry:

This text is part of: [Greek and Roman Materials](#)

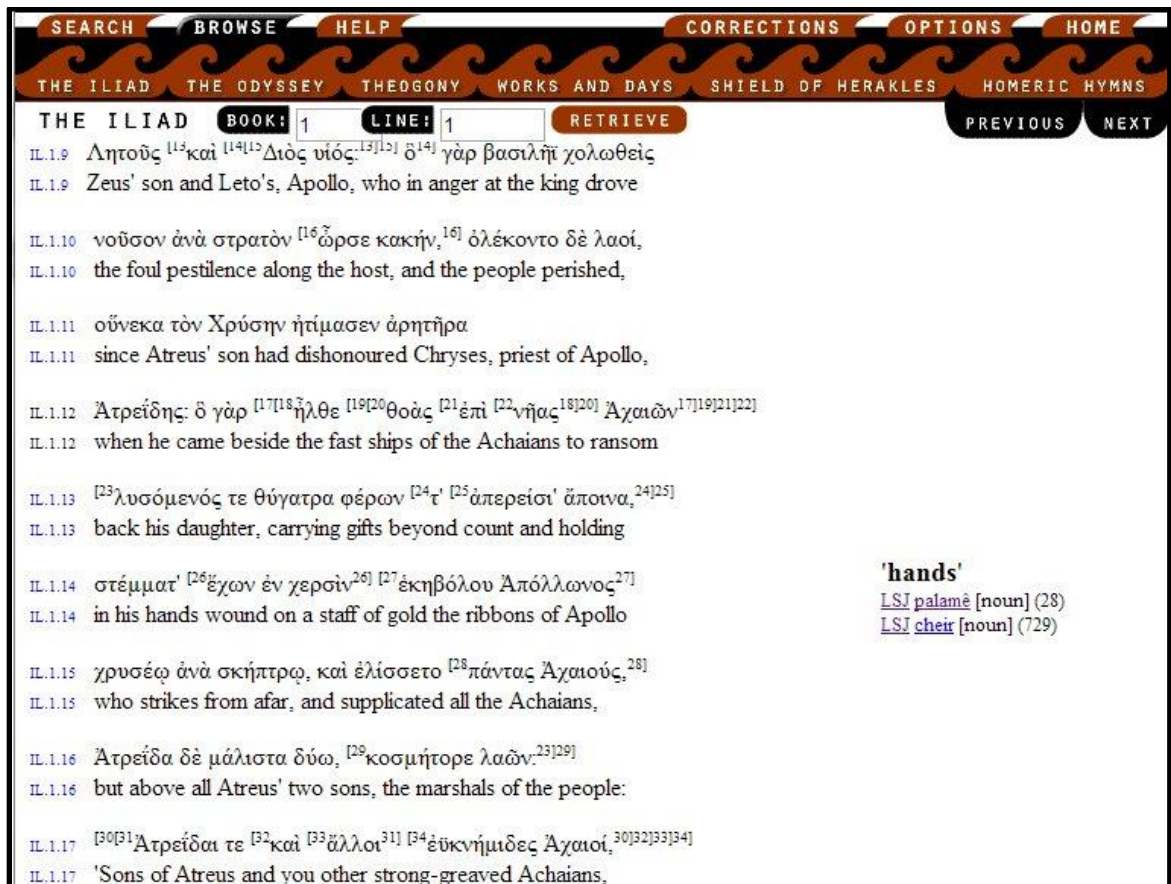
View text chunked by:

↔ pala/mh

παλάμη : palm of the hand, hand.
Georg Autenrieth. *A Homeric Dictionary for Schools and Colleges*. New York. Harper and Brothers. 1891.

The National Endowment for the Humanities provided support for entering this text.

10. Return to the Chicago Homer window.



SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

THE ILIAD THE ODYSSEY THEOGONY WORKS AND DAYS SHIELD OF HERAKLES HOMERIC HYMNS

THE ILIAD BOOK: 1 LINE: 1 RETRIEVE PREVIOUS NEXT

IL.1.9 Λητοῦς ^[14]καὶ ^{[14][15]}Διὸς υἱός·^{[13][15]} ὁ ^[14]γὰρ βασιλῆϊ χολωθεὶς
IL.1.9 Zeus' son and Leto's, Apollo, who in anger at the king drove

IL.1.10 νοῦσον ἀνὰ στρατὸν ^[16]ᾧρσε κακῆν,^[16] ὀλέκοντο δὲ λαοί,
IL.1.10 the foul pestilence along the host, and the people perished,

IL.1.11 οὐνεκα τὸν Χρῦσιν ἠτίμασεν ἀρητῆρα
IL.1.11 since Atreus' son had dishonoured Chryses, priest of Apollo,

IL.1.12 Ἄτρεΐδης· ὁ γὰρ ^{[17][18]}ἦλθε ^{[19][20]}θοῶς ^[21]ἐπὶ ^[22]νῆας^{[18][20]} Ἀχαιῶν·^{[17][19][21][22]}
IL.1.12 when he came beside the fast ships of the Achaians to ransom

IL.1.13 ^[23]λυσόμενός τε θύγατρα φέρων ^[24]τ' ^[25]ἀπερείσι' ἄποινα,^{[24][25]}
IL.1.13 back his daughter, carrying gifts beyond count and holding

IL.1.14 στέμματ' ^[26]ἔχων ἐν χερσίν·^[26] ^[27]ἐκηβόλου Ἀπόλλωνος·^[27]
IL.1.14 in his hands wound on a staff of gold the ribbons of Apollo

IL.1.15 χρυσέφ' ἀνὰ σκήπτρῳ, καὶ ἐλίσσετο ^[28]πάντας Ἀχαιοῦς·^[28]
IL.1.15 who strikes from afar, and supplicated all the Achaians,

IL.1.16 Ἄτρεΐδα δὲ μάλιστα δύο, ^[29]κοσμήτορε λαῶν·^{[23][29]}
IL.1.16 but above all Atreus' two sons, the marshals of the people:

IL.1.17 ^{[30][31]}Ἄτρεΐδαί τε ^[32]καὶ ^[33]ἄλλοι^[31] ^[34]εὐκνήμιδες Ἀχαιοί·^{[30][32][33][34]}
IL.1.17 'Sons of Atreus and you other strong-greaved Achaians,

'hands'
[LSJ palamē](#) [noun] (28)
[LSJ cheir](#) [noun] (729)

We can now look at where these different terms are used.

11. Click on the word **palamê** itself to search for all occurrences of this word.

The Concordance view displays a list of passages where this word is used:

The screenshot shows a web interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links: SEARCH, BROWSE, HELP, CORRECTIONS, OPTIONS, HOME. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links: QUERY FORM, WORD LIST, CONCORDANCE, REPETITIONS, PREVIOUS, NEXT. The main content area features a search box with the text "Search Constraints" and "Search Term: palamê". Below the search box, it states "Displaying 1 to 25 of 28 matches." and lists several results, each with a citation link and a brief description in Greek and English.

Displaying 1 to 25 of 28 matches.

[IL.1.238](#) ἐν παλάμαις φορέουσι δικασπόλοι, οἳ τε θέμιστας
[IL.1.238](#) carry it in their hands in state when they administer

[IL.3.128](#) οὐς ἔθεν εἶνεκ' ἔπασχον ὑπ' Ἄρης παλαμάων:
[IL.3.128](#) struggles that they endured for her sake at the hands of the war god.

[IL.3.338](#) εἶλετο δ' ἄλκιμον ἔγχος, ὃ οἱ παλάμηφιν ἀρήρει.
[IL.3.338](#) He took up a strong-shafted spear that fitted his hand's grip.

[IL.3.368](#) ἤϊχθη παλάμηφιν ἐτώσιον, οὐδ' ἔβαλόν μιν.
[IL.3.368](#) out of my hands on the throw before, and I have not hit him.'

[IL.5.558](#) ἀνδρῶν ἐν παλάμησι κατέκταθεν ὄξεϊ χαλκῶ:
[IL.5.558](#) fall and are killed under the cutting bronze in the men's hands;

[IL.5.594](#) Ἄρης δ' ἐν παλάμησι πελώριον ἔγχος ἐνώμα,
[IL.5.594](#) while Ares made play in his hands with the spear gigantic

12. To view the first line in context, click on the citation link, **IL.1.238**.

The passage is displayed, and the line number is shown in bold:

SEARCH	BROWSE	HELP	CORRECTIONS	OPTIONS	HOME
THE ILIAD	THE ODYSSEY	THEOGONY	WORKS AND DAYS	SHIELD OF HERAKLES	HOMERIC HYMNS
THE ILIAD	BOOK: 1	LINE: 238	RETRIEVE	PREVIOUS	NEXT

IL.1.235 φύσει, ἐπει δὴ πρῶτα τομὴν ἐν ὄρεσσι λέλοιπεν,
 IL.1.235 branch, now that it has left behind the cut stump in the mountains,

IL.1.236 οὐδ' ἀναθηγήσει: περὶ γὰρ ῥά ἐ χαλκὸς ἔλεψε
 IL.1.236 nor shall it ever blossom again, since the bronze blade stripped

IL.1.237 φύλλά τε καὶ φλοιόν: νῦν αὐτὲ ^[1]μιν ^[2]υῖας Ἀχαιῶν^[12]
 IL.1.237 bark and leafage, and now at last the sons of the Achaians

IL.1.238 ἐν παλάμαις φορέουσι δικασπόλοι, οἳ τε θέμιστας
 IL.1.238 carry it in their hands in state when they administer

IL.1.239 πρὸς ^[3]Διὸς εἰρύαται:^[3] ὃ δέ τοι ^[4]μέγας ἔσσεται ὄρκος:^[4]
 IL.1.239 the justice of Zeus. And this shall be a great oath before you:

IL.1.240 ἢ ^[5]ποτ' Ἀχιλλῆος^[5] ποθὴ ἴξεται ^[6]υῖας Ἀχαιῶν^[6]
 IL.1.240 some day longing for Achilleus will come to the sons of the Achaians,

IL.1.241 σύμπαντας: ^[7]τότε δ' οὐ τι^[8] δυνήσεται ἀχνύμενός περ
 IL.1.241 all of them. Then stricken at heart though you be, you will be able

IL.1.242 χραισμῆιν,^[7] εὐτ' ἂν πολλοὶ ^[9]ὑφ' ^[10]Ἑκτορος ἀνδροφόνου^{[9][10]}
 IL.1.242 to do nothing, when in their numbers before man-slaughtering Hektor

IL.1.243 θνήσκοντες πίπτωσι: σὺ δ' ^[11]ἐνδοθι θυμὸν^[11] ἀμύξεις
 IL.1.243 they drop and die. And then you will eat out the heart within you

13. To return to the Concordance list, select the **Search** tab.

You can continue to look at the other passages if you wish.

14. To redisplay the list of terms, click on the word **hands** when you have one of the passages open.

You can investigate other Greek term for 'hand' if you wish, by clicking on the word **cheir**.