

# Using the Chicago Homer to Perform Detailed Searches

One of the tools available online to help in carrying out word studies is the Chicago Homer. This document provides worked examples of how to carry out detailed searches. It is possible to conduct very specific searches with different combinations of search criteria. These examples provide simple illustrations of how searches could be refined, but are by no means comprehensive.

## 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 (see pt 2)
- Search for phrases: (see pt 3)
- Carry out searches for related words (see pt 4):
- Perform detailed searches (this guide)

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>

## Detailed Searches: Summary of Steps

In the Chicago Homer:

1. Select **Search**
2. Select the combination of options
3. Click **Search**
4. Refine your search
5. Reset the search options

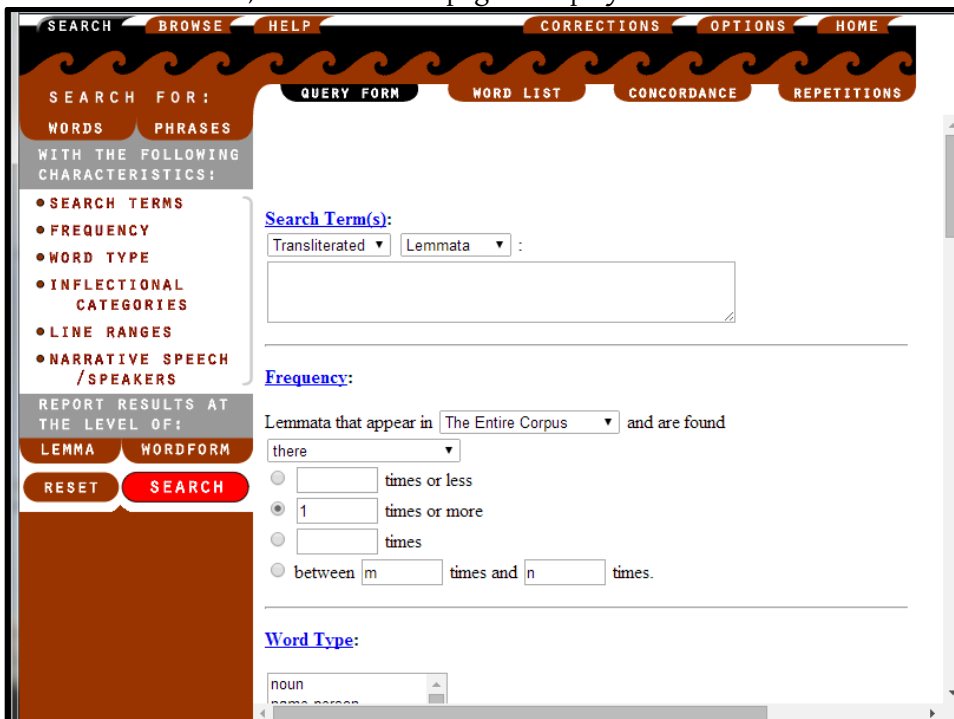
## Detailed Searches: Worked Example 1—Heroes and Gods

In this example, we will search for names of heroes and gods, starting with male names, followed by female names.

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 **Search** menu tab at the top if it is not already selected. The background of **Search** is black when selected, and the Search page is displayed:



The screenshot shows the search interface with the following elements:

- Top navigation: SEARCH (selected), BROWSE, HELP, CORRECTIONS, OPTIONS, HOME
- Search options: WORDS, PHRASES
- Characteristics: SEARCH TERMS, FREQUENCY, WORD TYPE, INFLECTIONAL CATEGORIES, LINE RANGES, NARRATIVE SPEECH / SPEAKERS
- Report results at the level of: LEMMA, WORDFORM
- Buttons: RESET, SEARCH
- Search Term(s): Transliterated, Lemmata
- Frequency: Lemmata that appear in The Entire Corpus and are found there
- Word Type: noun

2. Scroll down a little until you can see the **Word Type** menu list, then select **name-person**.



The close-up shows the 'Word Type' dropdown menu with the following options:

- noun
- name-person** (highlighted)
- name-place
- adjective
- adjective-name

3. Scroll down further until you can see the **Inflectional Categories** menu options, and for **Case** select **nom** (nominative), and for **Gender** select **masc**.

**Inflectional Categories:**

| Tense  | Mood  | Voice | Case | Gender | Person | Number |
|--------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| pres   | ind   | act   | nom  | masc   | 1st    | sing   |
| imperf | subj  | mid   | gen  | fem    | 2nd    | plur   |
| fut    | opt   | mp    | dat  | mf     | 3rd    | dual   |
| aor    | imper | pass  | acc  | neut   |        |        |
| perf   | inf   |       | voc  |        |        |        |

4. At the left-hand side of the window, click the **Search** button:

REPORT RESULTS AT THE LEVEL OF:

LEMMA WORDFORM

RESET SEARCH

The results of your search are displayed, with the male names shown in their nominative form.

5. Notice that the list is ranked in order of frequency.

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE REPETITIONS PREVIOUS NEXT

**Search Constraints**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Frequency:  | Words in The Entire Corpus 1 times or more |
| Word Type:  | name                                       |
| Inflection: | nom, masc                                  |

Displaying 1 to 200 of 472 match(es). The **count** column specifies the total occurrences of each lemma in the corpus. Results are ordered by descending frequency of lemma. Click on the lemma to get a concordance output of the number of hits that meet your particular search constraints. You may cut and paste this table output directly into a spreadsheet and then sort it by lemma, word type, or frequency.

|   | Lemma                    | Type | Count |
|---|--------------------------|------|-------|
| 1 | <a href="#">Ζεύς</a>     | name | 971   |
| 2 | <a href="#">Αχαιός</a>   | name | 729   |
| 3 | <a href="#">Οδυσσεύς</a> | name | 725   |
| 4 | <a href="#">Τρώς</a>     | name | 645   |
| 5 | <a href="#">Ἔκτωρ</a>    | name | 450   |
| 6 | <a href="#">Αχιλλεύς</a> | name | 384   |
| 7 | <a href="#">Ἡλέμαχος</a> | name | 248   |
| 8 | <a href="#">Ἀπόλλων</a>  | name | 236   |
| 9 | <a href="#">Ἀρσίνος</a>  | name | 222   |

- Click on the sixth name in the list, Ἀχιλλεύς (Achilles).  
The Concordance view displays a list of lines where the name appears.

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE REPETITIONS PREVIOUS NEXT

Search Constraints

Search Term: Ἀχιλλεύς

Displaying 1 to 25 of 384 matches.

[IL.1.1](#) μήνιν ἄειδε θεὰ Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος  
[IL.1.1](#) SING, goddess, the anger of Peleus' son Achilleus

[IL.1.7](#) Ἀτρεΐδης τε ἀναξ ἀνδρῶν καὶ δῖος Ἀχιλλεύς.  
[IL.1.7](#) Atreus' son the lord of men and brilliant Achilleus.

[IL.1.54](#) τῇ δεκάτῃ δ' ἀγορήνδε καλέσσατο λαὸν Ἀχιλλεύς:  
[IL.1.54](#) but on the tenth Achilleus called the people to assembly;

[IL.1.58](#) τοῖσι δ' ἀνιστάμενος μετέφη πόδας ὠκύς Ἀχιλλεύς:  
[IL.1.58](#) Achilleus of the swift feet stood up among them and spoke forth:

[IL.1.74](#) ὦ Ἀχιλεῦ κέλεαί με Διὶ φίλε μυθήσασθαι  
[IL.1.74](#) 'You have bidden me, Achilleus beloved of Zeus, to explain to

[IL.1.84](#) τὸν δ' ἀπαμειβόμενος προσέφη πόδας ὠκύς Ἀχιλλεύς:  
[IL.1.84](#) Then in answer again spoke Achilleus of the swift feet:

Notice that it shows different forms of the name, not just the nominative.

- Select the **Query Form** tab at the top to return to your search pattern.

SEARCH BROWSE HELP

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE

Search Constraints

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Frequency:  | Words in The Entire Corpus 1 times or more |
| Word Type:  | name                                       |
| Inflection: | nom, masc                                  |

When the Query form is redisplayed, notice that your previous search options are still selected. This is useful if you want to refine your search.

- Now we want to narrow down the search to find only the nominative form of the name, where the hero or god is the subject of the sentence. At the left-hand side, select the **Word Form** option, then click **Search**.



9. This time, the list of results is displayed in the Unicode transliterated form, and it has split out the nominative form(s) of the names:

|   | Number of Word Forms | Lemma (Count)<br>Word Form (Count)                                   |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 1                    | *zeu/s name (971)<br>1) *zeu/s (325)                                 |
| 2 | 2                    | *)axaio/s name (729)<br>1) *)axaioi/ (194)<br>2) *)axaio/s (2)       |
| 3 | 2                    | *)odusseu/s name (725)<br>1) *)odusseu/s (309)<br>2) *)oduseu/s (94) |
| 4 | 1                    | *trw/s name (645)<br>1) *trw=es (121)                                |
| 5 | 1                    | */(ektwr name (450)<br>1) */(ektwr (202)                             |
| 6 | 2                    | *)axilleu/s name (384)<br>1) *)axilleu/s (173)                       |

10. Look at the fifth name down, which is shown as

**\*/(ektwr** name (450)

1) **\*/(ektwr** (202)

This form represents a capital letter, a rough breathing (“h”), and an acute accent associated with the first letter of his name, “E”, and the “w” represents the omega character, to form a transliteration of the Greek name **Ἔκτωρ**). It tells us that the name occurs 450 times altogether, of which 202 are in the nominative case.

11. To see where these occurrences appear in the text, click on the link **\*/(ektwr** next to the (202). The Concordance view displays a list of lines where the name appears in the nominative.

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE REPETITIONS PREVIOUS NEXT

Search Constraints

Search Term: Ἑκτωρ

Displaying 1 to 25 of 202 matches.

[IL.2.807](#) ὡς ἔφαθ', Ἑκτωρ δ' οὐ τι θεᾶς ἔπος ἠγνοίησεν,  
[IL.2.807](#) She spoke, nor did Hektor fail to mark the word of the goddess.

[IL.2.816](#) Τρωσὶ μὲν ἠγεμόνευε μέγας κορυθαίολος Ἑκτωρ  
[IL.2.816](#) Tall Hektor of the shining helm was leader of the Trojans,

[IL.3.38](#) τὸν δ' Ἑκτωρ νείκεσσαν ἰδὼν αἰσχροῖς ἐπέεσσιν:  
[IL.3.38](#) But Hektor saw him and in words of shame rebuked him:

[IL.3.76](#) ὡς ἔφαθ', Ἑκτωρ δ' αὐτ' ἐχάρη μέγα μῦθον ἀκούσας,  
[IL.3.76](#) So he spoke, and Hektor hearing his word was happy

[IL.3.83](#) στεῦται γάρ τι ἔπος ἐρέειν κορυθαίολος Ἑκτωρ.  
[IL.3.83](#) Hektor of the shining helm is trying to tell us something.'

[IL.3.85](#) ἔσσυμένως: Ἑκτωρ δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέροισιν ἔειπε:  
[IL.3.85](#) silent; but Hektor between them spoke now to both sides:

12. To view any of these in context, click the link on the work/line number. In this example we will look at the first of these (*Iliad* II 807).

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

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

THE ILIAD BOOK: 2 LINE: 807 RETRIEVE PREVIOUS NEXT

[IL.2.804](#) <sup>[1]</sup> ἄλλη δ' ἄλλων γλῶσσα<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[2]</sup> πολυσπερέων ἀνθρώπων:<sup>[2]</sup>  
[IL.2.804](#) but multitudinous is the speech of the scattered nations:

[IL.2.805](#) τοῖσιν <sup>[3]</sup> ἕκαστος ἀνὴρ<sup>[3]</sup> σημαίνετω οἷσι περ ἄρχει,  
[IL.2.805](#) let each man who is their leader give orders to these men,

[IL.2.806](#) τῶν δ' ἐξηγείσθω κοσμησάμενος πολήτας.  
[IL.2.806](#) and let each set his citizens in order, and lead them.'

[IL.2.807](#) <sup>[4]</sup> ὡς <sup>[6]</sup> ἔφαθ', <sup>[7]</sup> Ἑκτωρ <sup>[6]</sup> δ' <sup>[8]</sup> οὐ τι <sup>[4]</sup> <sup>[8]</sup> θεᾶς ἔπος<sup>[8]</sup> ἠγνοίησεν,  
[IL.2.807](#) She spoke, nor did Hektor fail to mark the word of the goddess.

[IL.2.808](#) αἶψα δ' ἔλυσ' ἀγορὴν: ἐπὶ τεύχεα δ' ἔσσεύοντο:  
[IL.2.808](#) Instantly he broke up the assembly; they ran to their weapons.

[IL.2.809](#) <sup>[9]</sup> πᾶσαι <sup>[10]</sup> δ' ὄψινυτο πύλαι,<sup>[10]</sup> ἐκ δ' ἔσσυτο λαὸς  
[IL.2.809](#) All the gates were opened and the people swept through them

[IL.2.810](#) <sup>[11]</sup> πεζοὶ θ' ἱππῆές τε: <sup>[12]</sup> <sup>[13]</sup> πολὺς δ' <sup>[14]</sup> ὄρουμαγδός<sup>[13]</sup> ὄρωρει.<sup>[9]</sup><sup>[11]</sup><sup>[12]</sup><sup>[14]</sup>  
[IL.2.810](#) on foot, and with horses, and a clamour of shouting rose up.

13. To return to the results of that name search in the Concordance, select the **Search** tab at the top. From here, you can investigate another occurrence of Hector, if you wish.

14. To return to the list of your word search results, i.e. the list of names, select the **Word List** tab at the top. From here, you can investigate another name, if you wish.
15. To return to your search options, select the **Query Form** tab at the top.
16. Since your original search options are still displayed, it is easy to find female names in the nominative. Find the **Inflectional Categories**, and instead of **masc**, select **fem**:

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

SEARCH FOR: WORDS PHRASES

WITH THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS!

- SEARCH TERMS
- FREQUENCY
- WORD TYPE
- INFLECTIONAL CATEGORIES
- LINE RANGES
- NARRATIVE SPEECH /SPEAKERS

REPORT RESULTS AT THE LEVEL OF:  
LEMMA WORDFORM

RESET SEARCH

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE REPETITIONS

between m times and n times.

**Word Type:**

noun  
name-person  
name-place  
adjective  
adjective-name

**Inflectional Categories:**

| Tense  | Mood  | Voice | Case | Gender | Person | Number |
|--------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| pres   | ind   | act   | nom  | masc   | 1st    | sing   |
| imperf | subj  | mid   | gen  | fem    | 2nd    | plur   |
| fut    | opt   | mp    | dat  | mf     | 3rd    | dual   |
| aor    | imper | pass  | acc  | neut   |        |        |
| perf   | inf   |       | voc  |        |        |        |

17. Everything else is already set, so you simply click **Search**, and the list of female names is displayed, with the occurrences in the nominative form split out:

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE REPETITIONS PREVIOUS NEXT

Frequency: Words in The Entire Corpus 1 times or more

Word Type: name

Inflection: nom, fem

Your search retrieved 264 lemma(ta), represented by 286 word form(s). The numbers in parenthesis specify the total occurrences of each lemma or wordform in the corpus. Results are ordered by descending frequency of lemma and descending frequency of wordform within each lemma. Click on the lemma or wordform to get a concordance output of the number of hits that meet your particular search constraint.

Displaying 1 to 20 of 264 match(es).

|   | Number of Word Forms | Lemma (Count)<br>Word Form (Count)   |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 1                    | <a href="#">*)axaio/s name (729)</a><br>1) <a href="#">*)axaiai/ (2)</a>                                       |
| 2 | 2                    | <a href="#">*)aqh/nh name (346)</a><br>1) <a href="#">*)aqh/nh (205)</a><br>2) <a href="#">*)aqhnai/h (45)</a> |
| 3 | 1                    | <a href="#">*)argei-os name (222)</a><br>1) <a href="#">*)argei/h (6)</a>                                      |
| 4 | 1                    | <a href="#">*/hrh name (150)</a><br>1) <a href="#">*/hrh (97)</a>  |
| 5 | 1                    | <a href="#">*phnelo/peia name (83)</a><br>1) <a href="#">*phnelo/peia (83)</a>                                 |

18. Click **Query Form** to return to your search options.
19. If you have finished with the name search, select **Reset**

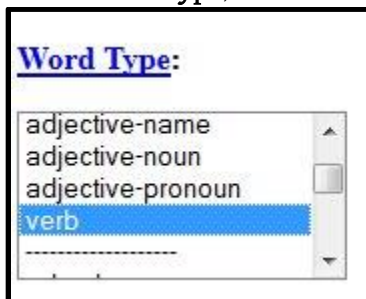
### Detailed Searches: Worked Example 2-Verb Forms

In this example, we will investigate where verbs are used in speech, where people are talking about their own actions in the present tense.

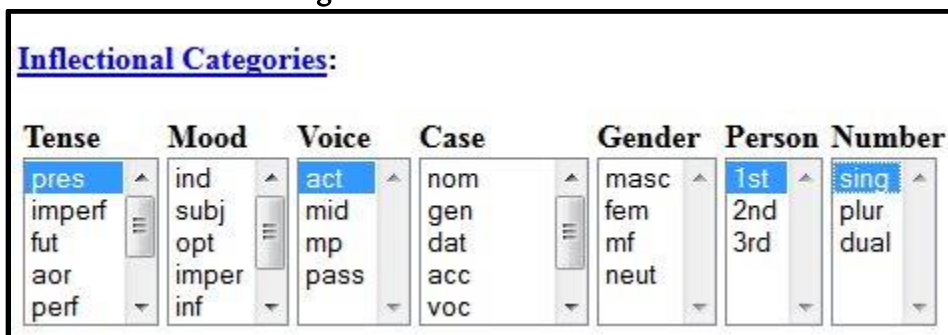
1. Click the **Query Form** tab if the search options are not already displayed.
2. Select **Reset** to ensure there are no previous search options selected, otherwise they will be included in the search pattern.
3. In the **Search Terms** section, select **Word forms**



4. Under **Word Type**, select **verb**



5. Under **Inflectional Categories**, for **Tense** select **pres**, for **Voice** select **act**, for **Person** select **1st** and for **Number** select **sing**.





6. Scroll down to the **Search criteria relating to speech and narrative** options. For **Within Speech or Narrative** select **Speech**, for **Mortality** select **Mortal**, and for **Gender** select **Female**.

**Search criteria relating to speech and narrative**

**Within Speech or Narrative:**

**Within speeches with the following speaker characteristics:**

**Mortality:**  **Gender:**

**Within speeches by specific speaker:**

7. Make sure **Wordform** is selected at the left-hand side, then click **Search**.

REPORT RESULTS AT THE LEVEL OF:

LEMMA  WORDFORM

The Word List screen displays a transliterated list of verbs with the present, active, first person singular form, split out from the lemma form (which represents all occurrences of these verbs).

SEARCH BROWSE HELP CORRECTIONS OPTIONS HOME

QUERY FORM WORD LIST CONCORDANCE REPETITIONS PREVIOUS NEXT

Word Type: verb  
 Inflection: pres, act, 1st, sg  
 Speaker: Female, Mortal characters

Your search retrieved 26 lemma(ta), represented by 29 word form(s). The numbers in parenthesis specify the total occurrences of each lemma or wordform in the corpus. Results are ordered by descending frequency of lemma and descending frequency of wordform within each lemma. Click on the lemma or wordform to get a concordance output of the number of hits that meet your particular search constraint.

Displaying 1 to 20 of 26 match(es).

|   | Number of Word Forms | Lemma (Count)<br>Word Form (Count)   |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 2                    | <a href="#">ei)mi/</a> verb (2445)<br>1) <a href="#">ei)mi/</a> (54)<br>2) <a href="#">ei)m'</a> (7) |
| 2 | 2                    | <a href="#">e)/xw</a> verb (1013)<br>1) <a href="#">e)/xw</a> (9)<br>2) <a href="#">e)/xoimi</a> (2) |
| 3 | 1                    | <a href="#">fhmi/</a> verb (876)<br>1) <a href="#">fhmi/</a> (55)                                    |
| 4 | 1                    | <a href="#">ei)=mi</a> verb (586)<br>1) <a href="#">ei)=mi</a> (22)                                  |

8. Notice that the transliteration distinguishes the smooth breathing as a closing parenthesis after the initial vowel, an acute accent as a forward slash following the vowel, and a circumflex accent as an 'equals' sign. So the first verb in the list is shown as **ei)mi/** to represent εἶμι, 'I am', the second is shown as **e)/xw** to represent ἔχω, 'I have', the third is shown as **fhmi/** to represent φημί, and the fourth is shown as **ei)=mi** to represent εἶμι 'I go'. Notice also that there are 26 different verbs represented that meet your search criteria. To view more, you would click on the **Next** and **Previous** tab options at the top of the screen.
9. To see a Concordance view of where the verbs occur, click on the verb form. In this example we will look at the first verb on the list, so click on the full form of the verb next to the number (54).



10. Notice that there is only one example spoken by a female mortal character.
11. Select the **Query Form** tab at the top of the screen. Your previous search options are still all selected.
12. In the **Search criteria relating to speech and narrative** section, change the **Gender** to **Male**, and click **Search**.



13. In the resulting Word List, notice that there are 110 different verbs in the search results, because there are many more male speakers represented. Notice also that the number of variations of the word forms has changed, and there are now four different forms of **ei)mi/** listed. In this example, we will investigate form 3), **ei)m'**

|            |           |             |             |         |      |
|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------|------|
| SEARCH     | BROWSE    | HELP        | CORRECTIONS | OPTIONS | HOME |
| QUERY FORM | WORD LIST | CONCORDANCE | REPETITIONS |         |      |

| Search Constraints |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Search Term:       | ειμ'        |
| Speech/Narrative:  | speech only |

Displaying 1 to 4 of 4 matches.

[IL.21.75](#) ἀντί τοί εἰμ' ἰκέταο διοτρεφές αἰδοίοιο:  
[IL.21.75](#) I am in the place, illustrious, of a suppliant who must be honoured,

[IL.21.109](#) πατρὸς δ' εἴμ' ἀγαθοῖο, θεὰ δέ με γείνατο μήτηρ:  
[IL.21.109](#) and born of a great father, and the mother who bore me immortal?

[IL.21.154](#) εἴμ' ἐκ Παιονίης ἐριβώλου τηλόθ' ἐούσης  
[IL.21.154](#) I am from Paionia far away, where the soil is generous,

[OD.9.19](#) εἴμ' Ὀδυσσεὺς Λαερτιάδης, δς πᾶσι δόλοισιν  
[OD.9.19](#) I am Odysseus Laertiades, who am of interest to all men

14. In this instance, we can see there are four occurrences, where the vowel at the end has been dropped because the next word starts with a vowel.
15. Return to the Word List to investigate the other variants of this form, or other verbs, if you wish.