

To join hand in hand, is to unite efforts and act in concert.

Hand in hand, fit; pait; suitable. *Shak.*

Hand to mouth. To live from hand to mouth, is to obtain food and other necessities, as want requires, without keeping previous provision, or having an abundant previous supply.

To bear in hand, to keep in expectation; to elude. [Not used.] *Shak.*

To bear a hand, to hasten; a seaman's phrase.

To be hand and glove, to be intimate and familiar, as friends or associates.

To set the hand to, to engage in; to undertake.

That the Lord thy God may bless thee, in all thou settest thine hand to. Deut. xxii.

To take in hand, to attempt; to undertake. Luke i.

Also, to seize and deal with.

To have a hand in, to be concerned in; to have a part or concern in doing; to have an agency in. *South.*

To put the last hand or finishing hand to, to complete; to perfect; to make the last corrections, or give the final polish.

To change hands, to change sides; to shift.

*Butler.*  
Hand, in the sense of rate, price, terms, conditions, as used by Bacon, Taylor, &c., is obsolete; as, "to buy at a dear hand;" "accept the mystery, but at no hand wrest it by pride or ignorance." So in the sense of advantage, gain, superiority, as used by Hayward; and in that of competition, content, as used by Shakespeare.

To get hand, to gain influence, is obsolete.

A heavy hand, severity or oppression.

A light hand, gentleness; moderation.

A strict hand, severe discipline; rigorous government.

Hands off, a vulgar phrase for keep off, forbear.

To pour water on the hands, in the phraseology of the Scriptures, is to serve or minister to. 2 Kings iii.

To wash the hands, to profess innocence. Matt. xxvii.

To kiss the hand, imports adoration. Job xxxi.

To lean on the hand, imports familiarity. 2 Kings v.

To strike hands, to make a contract, or to become surety for another's debt or good behavior. Prov. xvii.

Putting the hand under the thigh, was an ancient ceremony used in swearing.

To give the hand, is to make a covenant with one, or to unite with him in design. 2 Kings x.

The stretching out of the hand, denotes an exertion of power. But,

The stretching out of the hand to God, imports earnest prayer or solemn dedication of one's self to him. Ps. lxxviii. and cxliii.

The lifting of the hand, was used in affirmation and swearing, and in prayer imported a solemn wishing of blessings from God. Gen. xiv. Lev. xix.

To lift the hand against a superior, to rebel. 2 Sam. xx.

To put forth the hand against one, to kill him. 1 Sam. xxi.

To put one's hand to a neighbor's goods, to steal them. Ex. xxii.

To lay hands on in anger, to assault or seize, or to smite. Ex. xxiv. Is. xi.

To lay the hand on the mouth, imports silence. Job xl.

The laying on of hands, was also a ceremony used in consecrating one to office. Num. xxvii. 1 Tim. iv.

It was also used in blessing persons. Mark x.

Hiding the hand in the bosom, denotes idleness; inactivity; sluggishness. Prov. xix.

The clapping of hands, denotes joy and rejoicing. But in some instances, contempt or derision, or joy at the calamities of others. Ps. xlvii. Ezek. xxv.

A station at the right hand is honorable, and denotes favor, approbation or honor. A station on the left hand is less honorable. Matt. xx.

God's standing at the right hand of men, imports his regard for them, and his readiness to defend and assist them. Ps. xvi.

Satan's standing at the right hand of men, imports his readiness to accuse them, or to hinder or torment them. Zech. iii.

Clean hands, denotes innocence and a blameless and holy life. Ps. xxiv.

A slack hand, denotes idleness; carelessness; sloth. Prov. x.

The right hand, denotes power; strength. Ex. xv.

HAND, v. t. To give or transmit with the hand. Hand me a book.

2. To lead, guide and lift with the hand; to conduct. *Locke.*

3. To manage; as, I hand my oar. *Prior.*

4. To seize; to lay hands on. [Not used.] *Shak.*

5. In seamanship, to furl; to wrap or roll a sail close to the yard, stay or mast, and fasten it with gaskets. *Mar. Dict.*

To hand down, to transmit in succession, as from father to son, or from predecessor to successor. Fables are handed down from age to age.

HANDBALL, n. An ancient game with a ball. *Brand.*

HANDBARROW, n. A barrow or vehicle borne by the hands of men, and without a wheel. *Mortimer.*

HANDBASKET, n. A small or portable basket. *Mortimer.*

HANDBELL, n. A small bell rung by the hand; a table bell. *Bacon.*

HANDBREADTH, n. A space equal to the breadth of the hand; a palm. Ex. xxv.

HANDCLOTH, n. A handkerchief.

HANDCUFF, n. [Sax. handcops.] A manacle, consisting of iron rings for the wrists, and a connecting chain to confine the hands.

HANDCUFF, v. t. To manacle; to confine the hands with handcuffs.

HANDCRAFT, n. Work performed by the hands; usually written handicraft.

HANDED, pp. Given or transmitted by the hands; conducted; furlled.

HANDED, a. With hands joined. *Milton.*

2. In composition, as right-handed, most dextrous or strong with the right hand; having the right hand most able and ready.

Left-handed, having the left hand most strong and convenient for principal use.

HANDER, n. One who hands or transmits; a conveyer in succession. *Dryden.*

HANDFAST, n. Hold; custody; power of confining or keeping. *Obs. Shak.*

HANDFAST, a. Fast by contract; firm. *Obs.*

HANDFAST, v. t. [Sax. handfastan.] To pledge; to betroth; to bind; to join solemnly by the hand. *Obs.*

B. Jonson. Sancroft.

HANDFASTING, n. A kind of betrothing, or marriage contract. *Obs.*

HAND-FETTER, n. A fetter for the hand; a manacle. *Sherwood.*

HANDFUL, n. As much as the hand will grasp or contain. *Addison.*

2. As much as the arms will embrace.

3. A palm; four inches. *Obs. Bacon.*

4. A small quantity or number. A handful of men. *Clarendon.*

5. As much as can be done; full employment. *Ridgely.*

In America, the phrase is, he has his hands full.

HAND GALLOP, n. A slow and easy gallop, in which the hand presses the bridle to hinder increase of speed. *Johnson.*

HANDGLASS, n. In gardening, a glass used for placing over, protecting and forwarding various plants, in winter. *Cyc.*

HAND-GRENADE, n. A grenade to be thrown by the hand.

HANDGUN, n. A gun to be used by the hand. *Candem.*

HANDICRAFT, n. [Sax. handcraft.] Manual occupation; work performed by the hand. *Addison.*

2. A man who obtains his living by manual labor; one skilled in some mechanical art. *Dryden.*

HANDICRAFTSMAN, n. A man skilled or employed in manual occupation; a manufacturer. *Seif.*

HANDILY, adv. [See Handy.] With dexterity or skill; dextrously; adroitly.

2. With ease or convenience.

HANDINESS, n. The ease of performance derived from practice; dexterity; adroitness. *Chesterfield.*

HANDWORK, n. [for hand-work.] Work of the hands; product of manual labor; manufacture. *Hooker.*

2. Work performed by power and wisdom. *Ps. xix.*

HANDKERCHIEF, n. [hand and kerchief. See Kerchief.]

1. A piece of cloth, usually silk or linen, carried about the person for the purpose of cleaning the face or hands, as occasion requires.

2. A piece of cloth to be worn about the neck, and sometimes called a neckerchief.

HANDLANGUAGE, n. The art of conversing by the hands. [Not in use.]

HANDLE, v. t. [G. handlen, D. handelen, Sw. handla, Dan. handler, to treat, to trade, to negotiate. But in English it has not the latter signification. The word is formed from hand, as manage from L. manus.]

1. To touch; to feel with the hand; to use or hold with the hand.

The bodies we daily handle—hinder the approach of the part of our hands that press them. *Locke.*