

## NOTES ON THE PERSEUS WEBSITE

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu)

The Perseus website offers Greek and Latin texts together with a powerful search engine. What is the difference between Perseus and the TLG E-disk? TLG (Thesaurus Lingua Graecae) contains all extant Greek texts from Homer to A.D. 600 and a large number between A.D. 600–1453. Software designed for TLG does string searches. Perseus offers much less text, but it, too, is growing. Advantages are that it is free to the user, available over the Internet, and has a search engine that parses Greek words. In other words, if you look up *agaphshv* on the TLG disk, you retrieve that exact form on a nearly comprehensive set of Greek texts. On Perseus you would retrieve all forms of *agapaw* on fewer texts.

### *Tools for Searching*

From the home page click Tools to see the list of tools to choose from. The tools you use will depend upon what you have to work with and what you want to do. To get to this page when reading a text from the Classics page, click Other Tools & Lexica.

English to Greek Word Search: You may begin here if you have an English word and would like to find the Greek lexical forms in LSJ that contain the English word in their definitions. I tried the word “gold” and brought up the New Testament words, *xrusion* and *xruseov* as well as 250 other words.

Moral: It is best to know the Greek word you want before you use Perseus.

Greek Morphological Analysis: Use the Greek Morphological Analysis tool to find the parsing and lexical form of an inflected form of a Greek word. Simply type in the word and hit <enter>. From this page, you may click Greek Word Search for Perseus to search for the lexical form and all the inflected forms in the texts that Perseus has. Perseus retrieves the citations and a few lines of text with each. Click Frequency in Other Authors for a list of authors and a word count for all inflected forms of the word you entered. Click on the word count to see the list of citations for that author.

Greek Vocabulary Tool: Use this tool to build a vocabulary list for one or more works in the Perseus collection. Select a work or works from the list. Choose the sorting option, columns to include, etc. Click Submit Query. When the table is done, click hyperlinked terms for more information. You can create vocabulary lists from books of the Bible complete with a short definition of each word.

Greek Words in Context: Click Greek Words in Context to go to the Perseus Lookup Tool. Begin here if you have a word and want to search for it in a particular author or in all the Perseus texts. Type in the word and click Search to search all texts. Whether the word is in lexical or inflected form, Perseus will find all inflected forms of the root. To find only the exact form you type in, enclose the word in

quotes. Each citation will list the author and work and a few lines of the text containing the word.

If you are interested only in particular authors, click “Select texts to search” and choose the authors and works from the list. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click “Select texts and return to search.” You may then have to retype the word you are looking for. Click “Search.” Perseus will list citations only from your list of works and authors.

Within each citation, you can click a word to go to the morphological analysis of it. You can click the title to go to the full (Greek) text of the work, or click English for the English. Perseus takes you to the page containing the text of the citation.

**Multiple word searches** are also possible with this tool. Enter the search terms in either their lexical or inflected forms and choose an author or type of work. You may enter any number of terms for your search, but very common words will be excluded. The search program will parse the query words and find sentences that contain words derived from the same lexical forms. If you enter *pempousi and aggelon* in the search box, the program will find all sentences in Perseus that contain words derived from either *pempw* or *aggelov* (154 results on 8/03). A search for *pempousi aggelon* brings up sentences containing a word derived from each form (101 results).

Use *near* to cut down on results if *and* brings up too many. But note that *near* is not word order specific and does allow other words between the two you are looking for. Quotes around a phrase do not guarantee that the words will be found as a phrase. The words should be in the exact form in which you entered them, but they are not necessarily juxtaposed. A search for “*pempw aggelon*” brought up two results, both of which contained *pempwn* rather than *pempw*. So perhaps exact searches are string searches.

### *Displaying in a Greek Font*

If the text is not already displayed in a Greek font, click “Configure display.” It allows you to choose the default display and font you wish to use.

### *Reading a Text*

If you wish only to read a Greek or Latin text, click Classics. Works are listed by author. Choose English or the original language and click on the title of the work. For bibliographic information about the text, scroll to the bottom of the screen. Use the arrows at the top or bottom of any page to go forward or backward. To switch from the English text to the original language and vice versa, click the hyperlinked edition note under the title of the work at the top of the page. The Go to box under this allows you to enter a line number. Hit enter to go to the page containing that line.

To analyze a Greek or Latin word in the text, click on it. A Word Study Tool window will open with a brief analysis. If the window opens for the wrong word, click again on the word in a different place.