

## Handy

Hand In – Hand Out  
Hand Off – Hand Over

Hands Up – Hands Off  
Handle – Hand Hold

Sleight of Hand – Underhanded – Light-handed  
Backhand – Forehand – Handshake

Hold Hands – In Good Hands  
Hand Full – Heavy Hand – Hand Back

Hands Down – Upper Hand  
Hands Tied – Change Hands

Handmade – By Hand – Freehand  
First Hand – On Hand – At Hand

Hand Stand – Handball  
Hand Sign – Hand Print

Offhand – On the Other Hand – Out of Hand  
Hand Me Down – Second Hand

Right Handed – Left Handed  
No Hands – Two Hands – Hands Free

Give a Hand – Helping Hand – Lend a Hand  
Highhanded – Glad-hander

Hot Hand – Handsome  
Handle With Care

Calling All Hands!

## Comment

Key Human Characteristics:

- 1) Upright stance on two legs,
- 2) Hands with opposable thumbs,
- 3) Full language based communication,
- 4) Systematic language based thought and expression –  
describing, discussing and planning, not just reacting.

Given the fact that evolutionary experts identify the special nature of human hands as being central to characterizing our species, the word “hand” in English is appropriately used in a wide variety of phrases and idioms applicable to a great many human situations. While the above list of uses of the word “hand” is suggestive, it is far from comprehensive. And this is just English! If all human languages have the same extensive lexical representation for the concept of “hand” as English does, this “word” use would confirm at the very basic level of another unique human feature – full language, the importance of the human hand in defining who we are! In this regard, consider the word “handsome.” It literally evolves from the attribution of a person being handy to that handy person being male and attractive. At root then, attraction for males rests on the adroit use of hands, not all the other potential features of masculinity! Go the next leg and consider the phrase, “What’s Your Handle?” Asked in this manner, your name as your identity is associated with your Hands!

On and On..... Hand Over Hand!