

| SWI-Prolog format/2 | Accepts | Alternatively accepts | Place holder | Variation | Printing in current locale | Description |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Skipping an argument | Anything | | ~i | | | Skip argument |
| Text printing | Atom | Numbers, Strings (but not CharList, CodeList) | ~a | | | Prints an atom |
| | String | Atoms, CharList, CodeList (but not Numbers) | ~s | | | Prints a string |
| | | | ~n | | | Newline |
| | | | ~N | | | Newline, but suppressed if newline printed just before (not properly implemented yet) |
| | | | ~~ | | | Prints the ~ |
| Character printing | Integer (interpreted as unicode char point) | | ~c | | | Prints the corresponding unicode character |
| Integer printing | Integer | | ~d | ~D | ~:d | Prints integer interpreted as a decimal number; With "D", the number is printed in english local formatting (using a comma thousands separator) |
| | | | ~Xd | ~XD | ~X:d | Prints integer interpreted as a decimal number * 10^X (i.e. the decimal dot, printed a ".", will appear X positions from the right) With "D", the number is printed in english local formatting (using a comma thousands separator) |
| | | | ~I | ~XI | | Print with underscore digit grouping, by default in groups of 3 X can be used to set the group width. |
| | | | ~Xr | | ~X:r | Radix numeric conversion (e.g. for printing hexadecimal: ~16r) X is an integer between 2 and 36 "~" may activate locale-specific grouping of the output digits |
| Float printing | Float | Integer Non-Integer Rational | ~e | ~E | ~:e ~:E | Print a float in exponential notation, either with small "e" or capital "E". The precision is 6 decimal digits. |
| | | | ~Xe | ~XE | ~X:e ~X:E | As above, but the precision is given by X. |
| | | | ~f | | ~:f | Float in non-exponential notation |
| | | | ~Xf | | ~X:f | Float in non-exponential notation, but the precision is given by X. |
| | | | ~g | ~G | ~:g ~:G | Selects ~e/~E or ~f/~F depending on which yields the shortest string |
| | | | ~Xg | ~XG | ~:Xg ~:XG | As above, but the precision is given by X. |
| Punting the problem to other predicates | Any term | | ~k | | | Call write_canonical/1 with the next argument. "Write Term on the current output stream using standard parenthesised prefix notation (i.e., ignoring operator declarations)." |
| | | | ~p | | | Call print/1 with the next argument. "Print a term for debugging purposes" As the format of "debugging purposes" may change, this is not well defined. |
| | | | ~q | | | Call writeln/1 with the next argument. "Write Term to the current output, using brackets and operators where appropriate. Atoms that need quotes are quoted." (serialization, term can be read back using read/1) |
| | | | ~w | | | Call write/1 with the next argument. "Write Term to the current output, using brackets and operators where appropriate." |
| | Any term + Option list | | ~W | | | Call write_term/2 with the next 2 arguments, the 2 nd argument being options. "The predicate write_term/2 is the generic form of all Prolog term-write predicates." |
| Calling a goal | Term that can be called as a goal | | ~@ | | | Call the argument as a goal; output generated on "current_output" by that call is inserted (as string) |
| Whitespace distribution | | | ~t | ~Xt | | Tabstop filler. Wherever it appears, it grabs part of the space divided up between all the ~t found before the next tabstop. By default, 0x20 is used for filling, but for ~Xt, X gives the (decimal) character code (unicode code point) of the character to be used instead. |
| | | | ~ | ~X | | Tabstop setter. Either set the tabstop at the current position or at absolute position X (i.e. after the character at position X counted from 0). |
| | | | | ~X+ | | Set tab stop relative to previous stop. |