

Bash Programming

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Introduction

- Command-line bash vs bash script
- Scripting: take a set of commands you'd normally run by hand and put them in a file

Why?

- Automate tasks to make life easier!
- Can run them repeatedly with one command!

Bash Script Example

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
mkdir demo
```

```
cd demo
```

```
mkdir code
```

```
mkdir doc
```

```
cd code
```

```
cp ../../hello.c ./
```

```
gcc -o hello hello.c
```

```
./hello
```

Explanation

- Script made of a sequence of commands
- Two ways to run the script:
 - Invoke a script using bash
 - e.g. `bash 00-bash.sh`

- Invoke a script as a hash-bang executable
 - Script contains `#!/usr/bin/env bash` or `#!/bin/bash` (absolute path)
 - `env` will find the path, better to use in practice!
 - Above is called shebang
 - Sharp" (#) + "Bang" (!): # is called "sharp" in programming and ! is called "bang" in unix
 - A line of code that tells the shell what program to use
 - # is used for commenting, hence ignored during execution
 - Want to use python, replace bash with python above
 - You need to make the file executable via `chmod`
 - `chmod +x 00-shebang.sh` (changes permission)
 - `./00-shebang.sh` (runs it)

Print

- To print messages and debug Bash scripts, echo is a simple and effective command
 - E.g. `echo "Hello, World!"`
- Can use echo to enable escape sequences, print to files, print in color etc

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
echo "Hello, World!"
```

```
#ignores special characters
```

```
echo "Line1\nLine2\tTabbed"
```

```
#-e enable escape sequences, so newline and tab will be printed
```

```
echo -e "Line1\nLine2\tTabbed"
```

```
#Can print to files also
```

```
echo "Starting script..." >> debug.log
```

```
#printing in color
```

```
#\e[32m - ANSI Escape Code for Green Text; \e → Escape character; [ → Starts the ANSI sequence.
```

```
#32m → Sets the text color to green; 34m is blue, 31m is red etc
```

```
#\e[0m - Resets Formatting
```

```
echo -e "\e[32mSuccess: Task completed!\e[0m"
```

```
echo -e "\e[31mError: Something went wrong!\e[0m"
```

```
#How echo handles spaces
```

```
echo word1      word2
```

```
echo "word1     word2"
```

Variables

- No type casting, no need for declaration
 - Bash variables are character strings, but, depending on context permits integer operations

- Defined using the assign operator "="
 - e.g. age=20
 - No space before or after!
 - Variable name can include alphabets, digits, and underscore
 - Can start with alphabets and underscore only
 - Are case sensitive
 - To use a variable, prefix it with \$

Few things to note

- Special character need escaping via single quotes ('...') or back slash (\)
 - \" or \' or \\ or \\$
- Single and double quotes: Help group arguments with spaces
 - Single quotes (') preserve the literal value of each character
 - Double quotes (") preserve the literal value of all characters with the exception of \$, `, \
 - Variables will be expanded and commands substituted

“ or ’

Feature	"Double Quotes"	'Single Quotes'
Variable Expansion	✓ Yes	✗ No
Command Substitution	✓ Yes	✗ No
Special Characters (\ , \$, *)	✓ Yes (Some)	✗ No (Everything is literal)

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
#name = "Alice"    (Incorrect, spaces are not allowed)
```

```
name="Bhargav"     # Correct
```

```
age=12             # Correct
```

```
# printing and using variables via echo and $
```

```
echo "Hello, $name!"
```

```
echo "You are $age years old."
```

```
#numbers are also strings
```

```
echo -e "\n"
```

```
num1=1234
```

```
num2=7890
```

```
echo $num1$num2
```

#difference between " and '

```
echo -e "\n"
```

```
myVariable="Hello, world\!"
```

```
echo myVariable
```

```
echo $myVariable
```

```
echo "$myVariable"
```

```
echo '$myVariable'
```

#Handling spaces

{ } can be used to clearly separate the variable name from surrounding text. See below

```
echo -e "\n"
```

```
var="abc    xyz"
```

```
num="123"
```

```
echo 1 $var$num
```

```
echo 2 "$varXX$num"
```

```
echo 3 "${var}XX${num}"
```

```
#command substitution in variables
```

```
echo -e "\n"
```

```
lsResult=$(ls)
```

```
directory=`pwd`
```

```
echo "My files are:" $lsResult in $directory
```

```
#Double quotes ("") preserve the literal value of all characters with the exception of  
$, `, \
```

```
#In the first two commands, $ is interpreted as a variable with or without quotes.
```

```
#In the third command, bash interprets * as wildcard and lists all files ending in  
.sh.
```

```
#In the fourth, since it is inside quotes, it views it as * character and looks for a  
file named "*.sh"
```

```
echo -e "\n"
```

```
echo $HOME
```

```
echo "$HOME"
```

```
ls *.sh
```

```
ls "*.sh"
```

Environment Variables

- Variables in your system that describe your environment!
 - SHELL: what shell you're running
 - USER: username of the current user
 - PWD: present working directory
 - PATH: specifies the directories to be searched to find a command
 - etc
- “env” command (type in terminal) shows the list of variables

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
#enviornment variables
```

```
echo $HOME # Home Directory
```

```
echo $PWD # current working directory
```

```
echo $BASH # Bash shell name
```

```
echo $BASH_VERSION # Bash shell Version
```

```
echo $LOGNAME # Name of the Login User
```

```
echo $OSTYPE # Type of OS
```

```
echo "User $LOGNAME is working in folder $PWD using OS $OSTYPE"
```


Arithmetic Expressions

- Bash provides some basic supports (not great) for arithmetic operations using multiple methods
- `let`: built-in command for evaluating arithmetic expressions
 - E.g. `let "a = 1"` or `let "a = a + 1"`
 - Use `let` when doing inline arithmetic operations that modify variables

- `$[]`: older way to evaluate arithmetic expressions (deprecated)
 - E.g. `num=$[5 + 3]`
- `$(())`: preferred modern method for arithmetic calculations
 - E.g. `num=$((5 + 3))`
 - Use `$(())` when you need arithmetic expansion and want to directly assign the result

- Bash does not support floating-point arithmetic natively; use bc (basic calculator) command instead
 - By default, bc performs integer arithmetic; use -l option for float
 - E.g. `echo "scale=2; 5 / 2" | bc -l`
 - -l loads the math library and sets scale=20 by default
 - Can change scale (precision) to what you want also
- Can use declare -i to make a variable integer-only
 - E.g. `declare -i num=5`
 - Any non-numeric value assigned to num will be ignored

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
#Cannot use expression directly, will be viewed as a string
```

```
echo 1 5*2+1
```

```
num=5*2+1
```

```
echo 2 $num
```

```
#using let
```

```
let num=5*2+1
```

```
echo 3 $num
```

```
#a = 5 (Incorrect because Bash interprets a as a command, = as an argument, and  
5 as another argument
```

```
#with let, "a = 5" is the argument to let; so inside the quotes spaces are ok
```

```
let "a = 5"
```

```
let "a++"
```

```
echo 4 $a
```

#Two formats, `$((expression))` and `$(expression)`

echo 5 `$(5*2+1)` #avoid -- deprecated

echo 6 `$((5*2+1))`

a=10

b=2

result=\$((a ** b))

echo 7 \$result

```
#Bash does not support floating point arithmetic natively
echo 8 $((10 % 3)) # Output: 1
#floating point needs use of bc
echo 9 $((3/4)) #Output: 0
echo -n "10 "
echo "3/4" | bc -l #Output: .75000000000000000000
#above two lines can also be replaced like this via command substitution echo "10
$(echo "3/4" | bc -l)"
#example involving use of scale to reduce the precision to 5 digits
echo -n "11 "
echo "scale=5; sqrt(49)" | bc -l # Output: 7.00000
#bc supports variables also; Variables persist within a single bc session but are not
retained outside
echo -n "12 "
echo "a=10; b=3; a/b" | bc -l # Output: 3.33333333333333333333
#supports conditional expressions
echo -n "13 "
echo "5 > 2" | bc # Output: 1
```

```
#declare makes variable result integer only
```

```
declare -i num
```

```
num=$((5/2+1))
```

```
echo 14 $num # Output 3
```

```
#Any non-numeric value assigned to num will be ignored
```

```
num="hello"
```

```
echo 15 $num # Output: 0
```

Operators

- Bash supports a variety of operators for arithmetic, string, logical comparisons, and file testing
- Arithmetic Operators → +, -, *, /, %, **
- Comparison Operators → -eq, -ne, -gt, -lt, -ge, -le
- Logical Operators → &&, ||, !
- String Operators → =, !=, -z, -n
- File Operators → -e, -f, -d, -r, -w, -x
- Bitwise Operators → &, |, ^, ~, <<, >>
- Assignment Operators → =, +=, -=, *=, /=, %=


```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
#Press \U1F539 shows the blue diamond
```

```
echo -e " \n \U1F539 Arithmetic Operators"
```

```
a=10
```

```
b=3
```

```
echo "Addition:  $$(a + b)$ "
```

```
echo "Subtraction:  $$(a - b)$ "
```

```
echo "Multiplication:  $$(a * b)$ "
```

```
echo "Division (integer):  $$(a / b)$ "
```

```
echo "Modulus (remainder):  $$(a \% b)$ "
```

```
echo "Exponentiation:  $$(a ** b)$ "
```

```
echo "Floating-point division using bc:  $$(echo "scale=2; $a / $b"| bc -l)$ "
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ Comparison Operators"
```

```
#&& Runs if True, || Runs if False
```

```
[[ $a -eq $b ]] && echo "a is equal to b" || echo "a is not equal to b"
```

```
[[ $a -ne $b ]] && echo "a is not equal to b"
```

```
[[ $a -gt $b ]] && echo "a is greater than b"
```

```
[[ $a -lt $b ]] && echo "a is less than b"
```

```
[[ $a -ge 10 ]] && echo "a is greater than or equal to 10"
```

```
[[ $b -le 3 ]] && echo "b is less than or equal to 3"
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ Logical Operators"
```

```
[[ $a -gt 5 && $b -lt 30 ]] && echo "Both conditions met (AND)"
```

```
[[ $a -gt 15 || $b -lt 30 ]] && echo "At least one condition met (OR)"
```

```
[[ ! $a -eq 10 ]] && echo "Negation: a is not 10" || echo "a is 10"
```

```
echo -e "\n♦ String Operators"
```

```
str1="hello"
```

```
str2="world"
```

```
[[ $str1 = $str2 ]] && echo "Strings are equal" || echo "Strings are not  
equal"
```

```
[[ -z $str3 ]] && echo "String is empty"
```

```
[[ -n $str1 ]] && echo "String is not empty"
```

```
echo -e "\n♦ File Test Operators"
```

```
touch tempfile.txt
```

```
[[ -e tempfile.txt ]] && echo "File exists"
```

```
[[ -f tempfile.txt ]] && echo "It is a regular file"
```

```
[[ -s tempfile.txt ]] && echo "File is not empty" || echo "File is empty"
```

```
[[ -r tempfile.txt ]] && echo "File is readable"
```

```
[[ -w tempfile.txt ]] && echo "File is writable"
```

```
rm tempfile.txt
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ Assignment Operators"
```

```
#Use $((expr)) when you need to return a computed value to assign (e.g.,  
y=$((x+2))).
```

```
#Use ((expr)) when you modify variables directly (e.g., ((x+=1))).
```

```
x=5
```

```
((x+=2))
```

```
echo "x += 2: $x"
```

```
((x-=3))
```

```
echo "x -= 3: $x"
```

```
((x*=5))
```

```
echo "x *= 5: $x"
```

```
((x/=2))
```

```
echo "x /= 2: $x"
```

```
((x%=3))
```

```
echo "x %= 3: $x"
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ Bitwise Operators"
a=5  # 0101
b=3  # 0011
echo "AND: $((a & b))"  # 0001 = 1
echo "OR: $((a | b))"   # 0111 = 7
echo "XOR: $((a ^ b))"  # 0110 = 6
echo "NOT a: $((~a))"
echo "Right Shift: $((a >> 1))"
echo "Left Shift: $((a << 1))"
```

Conditionals

- Bash supports conditionals for decision-making in scripts
- Supports if, elif, else

if statement evaluates a condition and executes the block of code if the condition is true

```
if [[ CONDITION ]]; then  
    # Code to execute if CONDITION is true  
fi
```

if-else Statement: If the condition is false, the else block will be executed.

```
if [[ CONDITION ]]; then
```

```
    # Code to execute if CONDITION is true
```

```
else
```

```
    # Code to execute if CONDITION is false
```

```
fi
```

if-elif-else Statement: can check multiple conditions using elif (else if)

```
if [[ CONDITION1 ]]; then
    # Code for CONDITION1
elif [[ CONDITION2 ]]; then
    # Code for CONDITION2
else
    # Code if none of the conditions are true
fi
```

Note: `[[...]]` is a more modern and powerful alternative to `[...]` which you may seem sometimes. If you are sure you are working with Bash, you should always prefer `[[...]]` for conditional expressions!

Feature	<code>(())</code>	<code>[[]]</code>
Purpose	Arithmetic evaluation	String and conditional testing
Usage	Math operations and comparisons	String comparisons, regex
Variables	No <code>\$</code> needed (e.g., <code>((x++))</code>)	<code>\$</code> needed for variables (e.g., <code>[[\$x -gt 5]]</code>)
String Comparison	Not supported	Supports string comparison and regex (<code>==</code> , <code>!=</code> , <code>=~</code>)
Logical Operators	Supports only basic arithmetic comparison (e.g., <code>==</code> , <code>!=</code> , <code>></code> and <code><</code>)	Supports logical operators like <code>&&</code> (AND), <code>`</code>
Return value	Numeric result (0 or non-zero)	Boolean (true or false)

```
#!/bin/bash

x=10

# Basic if
if (( x > 5 )); then
    echo "1: x is greater than 5"
fi

# If-else
if (( x % 2 == 0 )); then
    echo "2: x is even"
else
    echo "2: x is odd"
fi

# If-elif-else
if (( x > 15 )); then
    echo "3: x is greater than 15"
elif (( x > 5 )); then
    echo "3: x is greater than 5 but less than or equal to 15"
else
    echo "3: x is less than or equal to 5"
fi
```

```
# String comparison with [[ ... ]] as opposed to using (( )) which is for arithmetic
name="Arun"
if [[ "$name" == "Sunita" ]]; then
    echo "4: Hello, Sunita!"
else
    echo "4: Hello, Stranger!"
fi
```

```
# Conditional involving commands (modernized with [[ ]] for string comparison)
if ls nonexistent_directory &>/dev/null; then
    echo "6: Directory exists!"
else
    echo "6: Error: Directory does not exist!"
fi
```

Loops

Bash provides three main types of loops for repeating tasks

- for loop – Iterates over a list of values or a range
- while loop – Repeats as long as a condition is true
- until loop – Repeats until a condition becomes true

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
```

```
#For loop
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ For Loop (Iterating Over a List of Strings)"
```

```
for fruit in apple banana cherry; do
```

```
    echo "Fruit: $fruit"
```

```
done
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ For Loop (Iterating Over a Numeric Range)"
```

```
for i in {1..5}; do
```

```
    echo "Number: $i"
```

```
done
```

```
#for loop with conditional
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ For Loop with conditional"
```

```
for dir in code doc anotherdir
```

```
do
```

```
    if [ -d "$dir" ]; then
```

```
        echo "$dir already exists"
```

```
    else
```

```
        mkdir "$dir"
```

```
    fi
```

```
done
```

```
#using command substitution
echo -e "\n ♦ For Loop (Iterating Over Command Output)"
for file in $(ls); do
    echo "File: $file"
done
```

```
#demo of break and continue in aloop
echo -e "\n ♦ For Loop with Break (Stopping at 3)"
for i in {1..5}; do
    if (( i == 3 )); then
        echo "Stopping at 3"
        break
    fi
    echo "Number: $i"
done
```

```
echo -e "\n ♦ For Loop with Continue (Skipping 3)"
for i in {1..5}; do
    if (( i == 3 )); then
        echo "Skipping 3"
        continue
    fi
    echo "Number: $i"
done
```

```
#While loop
echo -e "\n ♦ While Loop (Counting Up)"
count=1
while (( count <= 5 )); do
    echo "Count: $count"
    (( count++ ))
done
```

```
#Another while loop ; Notice use of [[ ]] and not (( )) since we are dealing with string operations
#${variable:offset} → Extracts a substring from variable, starting at offset
#${word:1} → Extract substring starting at index 1 which is "o"; same as removing first character
word="HELLO"
while [[ $word != "" ]]; do
    echo "$word"
    word=${word:1} # Remove first character
done
```

```
#Until Loop
echo -e "\n ♦ Until Loop (Counting Up)"
count=1
until (( count > 5 )); do
    echo "Count: $count"
    (( count++ ))
done
```

Special Shell Variables

- Predefined variables that provide useful information about the script, arguments, process control, exit statuses etc

- Positional Parameters: Hold the arguments passed to a script or function

`$0`: Script name

`$1, $2, ...`: Arguments passed to the script

`$#` Number of arguments

`$@` All arguments as separate words (i.e. a set of strings)

`$*` All arguments as a single string (i.e. one string)

- Exit Status Variables

\$?: Exit status of the last command (0 = success, nonzero = failure)

- Process Control Variables

\$\$: Process ID (PID) of the current shell

- Input & Output Variables

\$_: Last argument of the last command

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
#Run this script as follows: bash 08-shell-variables.sh abc "de fg" hij
```

```
# Note it has 3 arguments; all are strings; the second argument is written  
within quotes due to space within
```

```
echo "Script name: $0"
```

```
echo "First argument: $1"
```

```
echo "Second argument: $2"
```

```
echo "Third argument: $3"
```

```
echo "Number of arguments: $#"
```

```
#\ is being used as an escape character i.e. not interpret $ as variable but  
to interpret as character to print
```

```
echo "All arguments separately (\$@): @$"
```

```
echo "All arguments as a single string (\$*): $*"
```

```
#Looping through the arguments to show the diff between $* and $@
echo "Printing \$* "
for i in $*
do
    echo i is: $i
done

echo "Printing @$@ "
for i in "$@"
do
    echo i is: $i
done
```

```
# Running a command to check exit status
```

```
ls "hello.c" 2>/dev/null
```

```
echo "ls hello.c exited with $?"
```

```
ls "non-existent-file" 2>/dev/null
```

```
echo "ls non-existent-file exited with $?"
```

```
# Process control variables
```

```
echo "Current shell PID: $$"
```

```
echo "My parent process id is $PPID"
```

```
# Last argument of the last command
```

```
echo "Last argument of the last command: $_"
```

```
# Running another command to show $_ updates
```

```
echo "Hello World"
```

```
echo "Now, last argument of the last command is: $_"
```

Functions

- Functions: allow you to group commands and reuse
 - Make scripts modular and easier to maintain
- Bash functions accept arguments just like scripts
 - `$*`, `$#`, `$1`, `$2` ... (no explicit arguments)
 - Do not return values in usual way
 - Use `echo` to return output.
 - Use `return` for exit codes

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# First we will define functions and later we will call them
```

```
# Function expecting one argument ($1 refers to it)
```

```
greet() {  
    echo "Hello, $1!"  
}
```

```
# Function returning Value via echo
```

```
current_date() {  
    echo "Today's date is $(date +"%Y-%m-%d")"  
}
```

```
# Function using return (Exit Status); also expecting one argument i.e. $1
```

```
check_file() {  
    if [[ -f "$1" ]]; then  
        echo "File '$1' exists."  
        return 0  
    else  
        echo "File '$1' does not exist."  
        return 1  
    fi  
}
```

```
# Function with Loop; also expecting one argument i.e. $1
```

```
countdown() {  
    local i=$1  
    while [[ $i -ge 0 ]]; do  
        echo "Countdown: $i"  
        ((i--))  
    done  
}
```

```
# Recursive Function (Factorial) also possible; expecting one argument i.e. $1
```

```
factorial() {  
    if [[ $1 -le 1 ]]; then  
        echo 1  
    else  
        local temp=$(( $1 - 1 ))  
        local result=$(factorial "$temp")  
        echo $(( $1 * result ))  
    fi  
}
```



```
# Now we will call above functions

greet "Alice"  # Function with arguments

today=$(current_date)  # Capture function output
echo "$today"

check_file "/etc/passwd"  # Checking file existence
if [[ $? -eq 0 ]]; then
    echo "File check passed!"
else
    echo "File check failed!"
fi

countdown 3  # Loop in function

factorial_result=$(factorial 5)  # Recursion example
echo "Factorial of 5 is: $factorial_result"
```

```
#Another example of functions with arguments
function bar {
  [[ $# -ne 0 ]] || {
    echo "*** bar: must have at least 1 arg."
    return 1
  }
  echo "$@" #prints the arguments
  # no explicit return; "return 0" is implicit
}

echo "calling bar with no arguments, it should fail"
if bar; then
  echo success: $?
else
  echo failure: $?
fi

#introducing an extra line via echo
echo

echo "calling bar with 3 arguments, it should succeed"
echo 'calling bar: bar  arg1 arg2 arg3'
if bar arg1 arg2 arg3; then
  echo success: $?
else
  echo failure: $?
fi
```

Local vs Global Variables

- Bash variables can be local, global, or exported
 - Understanding their scope and behavior is crucial for writing modular scripts
- Global Variables: Defined without the local keyword
 - Available throughout the script, including inside functions
 - Can be modified by any part of the script
 - Note: Environment variables are global
 - Inherited by any child shells or processes

- Local Variables: Defined inside a function using the local keyword
 - Scope is limited to the function where it's declared
 - Does not affect global variables of the same name
- Exported Variables: Declared using export to make them available to child processes (subshells)
 - Useful when running another script or program from the current script

```
#!/bin/bash

# Global variable
message="Hello from global scope"

# Function using local variable
modify_message() {
    local message="Hello from inside function"
    echo "Inside function: $message"
}

echo "Before function call: $message"
modify_message
echo "After function call: $message" # Global variable remains unchanged


#exporting a variable X, but not Y
#introducing an extra line via echo
echo
export X="hello"
Y=5
echo "X is $X, Y is $Y"
./var-demo-child.sh
```

File Reading

- There are several ways to read a file in a Bash script
 - Command substitution and read
 - while read -r line (Safest and Recommended)

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
##### Method-1 via command substitution#####
```

```
echo -e "\n##Method-1## \n"
```

```
res=`cat file.txt`
```

```
echo "$res"
```

```
##### Method-2 via command substitution #####
```

```
echo -e "\n##Method-2## \n"
```

```
val=$(<file.txt)
```

```
echo "$val"
```

```
##### Method-3 read from specified file, #####  
#read: This is a built-in command that reads a line from standard input  
#In this case, from the file specified by redirection at the end  
#line is the name of the variable where each line of input will be stored.  
#You can choose any valid variable name here instead of line  
echo -e "\n##Method-3## \n"  
file='file.txt'  
i=1  
if [ -f "$file" ]; then  
    while read line; do  
        #Reading each line  
        echo "Line No. $i : $line"  
        i=$((i+1))  
    done < $file  
else  
    echo "File not found: $file"  
fi
```



```
##### Method-4 similar to above, except filename is coming as input argument.  
#Notice also -r option.  
#The -r option prevent backslashes in the input from being interpreted as escape characters  
#Also, here lots of checks have been added, this is how you should code
```

```
echo -e "\n##Method-4## \n"
```

```
# Check if the file name is provided as an argument
```

```
if [ $# -ne 1 ]; then  
    echo "Usage: $0 <filename>"  
    exit 1  
fi
```

```
file="$1" # Assign the first argument to the variable 'file'
```

```
# Check if file exists
```

```
if [ ! -f "$file" ]; then  
    echo "File not found: $file"  
    exit 1  
fi
```

```
# Read line by line from the file
```

```
#Notice the quotes around $file, this will help if there are spaces in the file name
```

```
while read -r line; do  
    echo "Line: $line"  
done < "$file"
```

File Writing

- Multiple ways to write to a file
- Most flexible and commonly used method is “here” document (EOF redirection)
 - Provides multi-line input to a command or script
 - Allows writing block text without needing echo commands for each line
 - Basic Syntax

```
command <<EOF
```

```
Multi-line text
```

```
More lines here
```

```
EOF
```

Command receives everything between <<EOF and EOF as input

EOF is just a delimiter—can replace it with any unique string (END, DATA, etc.), but it must match at the start and end

- Can also writing to a file using echo for shorter content
- Can use `printf` for better formatting

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
# Define the output file; using capitals to avoid confusion with "file" which is a command in unix
```

```
FILE="output.txt"
```

```
# 1. Overwrite the file using cat <<EOF
```

```
cat <<EOF > "$FILE"
```

```
This is the first line.
```

```
This is the second line.
```

```
EOF
```

```
echo "==> Written using cat <<EOF"
```

```
# 2. Append more lines using cat <<EOF
```

```
cat <<EOF >> "$FILE"
```

```
This content is appended.
```

```
Appending another line.
```

```
EOF
```

```
echo "==> Appended using cat <<EOF"
```

```
# 3. Append using echo (you can also overwrite with >)
echo "This is an appended line using echo." >> "$FILE"
echo "Another appended line using echo." >> "$FILE"
```

```
echo "==> Appended using echo"
```

```
# 4. Append using printf
```

```
name="Sanjit"
```

```
score=92.3578
```

```
# Using echo (not formatted properly) to show the difference
```

```
echo "echo Format Column1" "Column2" "Column3" >> "$FILE"
```

```
echo "echo Format Name: $name, Score: $score" >> "$FILE"
```

```
echo "==> Formatting via echo"
```

```
# Using printf (formatted properly)
```

```
#-10s: - means left-aligned, 10 is 10 characters, s is string output
```

```
printf "printf Name: %s, Score: %.2f\n" "$name" "$score" >> "$FILE"
```

```
printf "printf %-10s %-10s %-10s\n" "Column1" "Column2" "Column3" >> "$FILE"
```

```
echo "==> Formatting via printf"
```

```
# 5. Writing in a loop ( appends)
echo "Writing in a loop:" >> "$FILE"
while read -r line; do
    echo "$line" >> "$FILE"
done <<EOF
Loop Line 1
Loop Line 2
Loop Line 3
EOF

echo "==> Written using while loop"
```

Arrays

- Bash supports indexed arrays and associative arrays
- Indexed Arrays (Numerically Indexed)
 - Indexed by numbers starting from 0
 - Declared using parentheses: e.g. `fruits=("Apple" "Banana" "Cherry")`
 - Access elements using `${array[index]}`
 - Get all elements: `${array[@]}`
 - Get length: `${#array[@]}`
 - Add/modify elements: `fruits[3]="Orange"`
 - Remove an element: `unset fruits[1]`

- Associative Arrays (Key-Value Pairs)
 - Requires declare -A (Bash 4+)
 - Before Bash 4: Only indexed arrays were available
 - E.g.

```
declare -A capitals
capitals["France"]="Paris"
capitals["Japan"]="Tokyo"
```
 - Access values: `${array["key"]}`
 - Get all keys: `${!array[@]}`
 - Get all values: `${array[@]}`
 - Remove a key: `unset array["key"]`


```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
# --- Indexed Array ---
echo "### Indexed Array Example ###"

# Declare an indexed array
fruits=("Apple" "Banana" "Cherry")

# Add an element at index 3
fruits[3]="Orange"

# Print all elements
echo "All Fruits: ${fruits[@]}"

# Print the length of the array
echo "Number of Fruits: ${#fruits[@]}"

# Loop through the indexed array
echo "List of Fruits:"
for fruit in "${fruits[@]}; do
    echo "$fruit"
done

# Remove an element
unset fruits[1]
echo "After removing Banana: ${fruits[@]}"
echo ""
```

```
# --- Associative Array ---
echo "### Associative Array Example ###"

# Declare an associative array (Requires declare -A)
declare -A capitals

# Assign values
capitals["France"]="Paris"
capitals["Japan"]="Tokyo"
capitals["USA"]="Washington D.C."
capitals["India"]="New Delhi"

# Print all keys
echo "Countries: ${!capitals[@]}"

# Print all values
echo "Capitals: ${capitals[@]}"

# Access a single value
echo "Capital of India: ${capitals["India"]}"

# Loop through the associative array
echo "Country - Capital List:"
for country in "${!capitals[@]}"; do
    echo "$country - ${capitals[$country]}"
done

# Remove an element
unset capitals["USA"]
echo "After removing USA: ${!capitals[@]}"
```

References

1. <https://linuxconfig.org/bash-scripting-tutorial>
(a good beginner's guide)
2. <https://www.javatpoint.com/bash> (another guide)
3. <https://tldp.org/LDP/abs/html/> (more advanced)