

# Types of Files

[coursera.org/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/982qi/types-of-files](https://coursera.org/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/982qi/types-of-files)

There are a limited number of basic file types, each of which are displayed in the following directory listing:

```
$ ls -lF

total 8

brw-r--r-- 1 coop coop 200, 0 Mar  9 15:07 a_block_device_node
crw-r--r-- 1 coop coop 200, 0 Mar  9 15:06 a_character_device_node
drwxrwxr-x 2 coop coop 4096 Mar  9 15:05 a_directory/
prw-rw-r-- 1 coop coop   0 Mar  9 15:04 a_fifo|
-rw-rw-r-- 1 coop coop 1601 Mar  9 15:04 a_file
lrwxrwxrwx 1 coop coop   4 Mar  9 15:06 a_symbolic_link_to_directory -> /usr/
lrwxrwxrwx 1 coop coop   6 Mar  9 15:10 a_symbolic_link_to_a_file -> a_file
srwxrwxr-x 1 coop coop   0 Mar  9 15:09 mysock=
```

The first character in the listing shows the type of file:

Character	Type
-	Normal File
d	Directory
l	Symbolic link
p	Named pipe (FIFO)
s	Unix domain socket
b	Block device node
c	Character device node

The **file** utility program can be used to ascertain file types, as in:

\$ file \*

acpitool: ELF 64-bit LSB executable, AMD x86-64, version 1 (SYSV),  
for GNU/Linux 2.6.9, dynamically linked  
(uses shared libs), for GNU/Linux 2.6.9, not stripped

atob: C shell script text executable

awkkit.sh: Bourne-Again shell script text executable

blank: JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01

cdc.ORIG3: Bourne-Again shell script text executable

copy\_configs.sh: ASCII text

gtk-recordMyDesktop: python script text executable

gztobz2: Bourne-Again shell script text executable

html2ps: shell archive or script for antique kernel text