# Using cat Interactively

**coursera.org**/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/6NzX4/using-cat-interactively

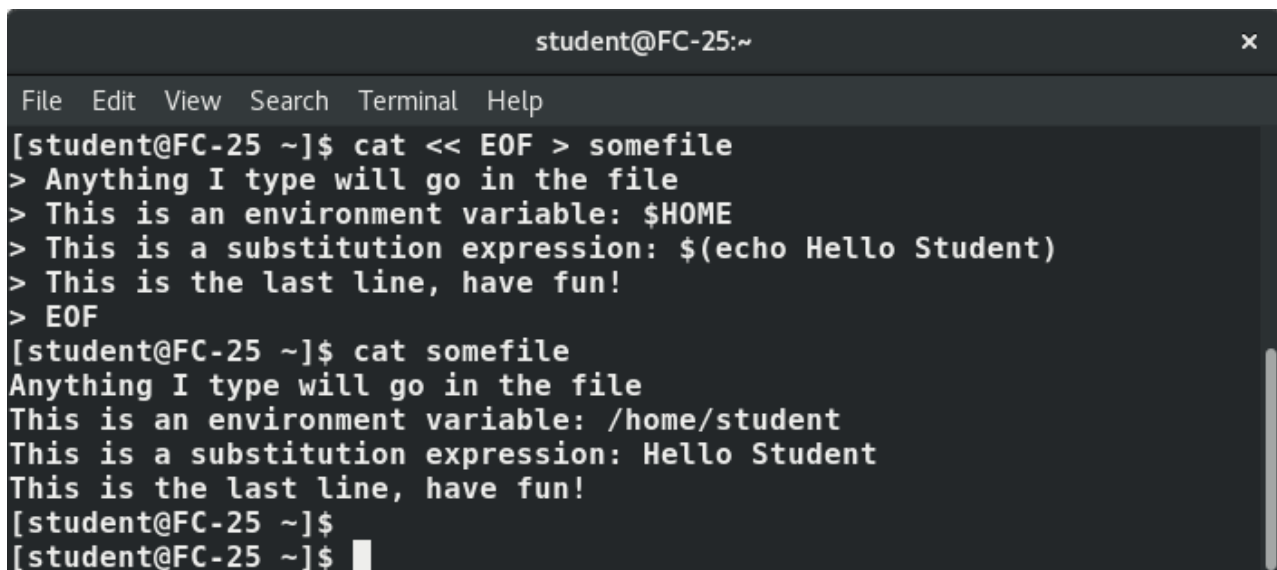**cat** can be used to read from standard input (such as the terminal window) if no files are specified. You can use the > operator to create and add lines into a new file, and the >> operator to append lines (or files) to an existing file. We mentioned this when talking about how to create files without an editor.

To create a new file, at the command prompt, type **cat > <filename>** and press the *Enter* key.

This command creates a new file and waits for the user to edit/enter the text. After you finish typing the required text, press *Ctrl-D* at the beginning of the next line to save and exit the editing.

Another way to create a file at the terminal is **cat > <filename> << EOF**. A new file is created and you can type the required input. To exit, enter **EOF** at the beginning of a line.

Note that **EOF** is case sensitive. One can also use another word, such as **STOP**.

```
student@FC-25:~                                    ✕

File  Edit  View  Search  Terminal  Help
[student@FC-25 ~]$ cat << EOF > somefile
> Anything I type will go in the file
> This is an environment variable: $HOME
> This is a substitution expression: $(echo Hello Student)
> This is the last line, have fun!
> EOF
[student@FC-25 ~]$ cat somefile
Anything I type will go in the file
This is an environment variable: /home/student
This is a substitution expression: Hello Student
This is the last line, have fun!
[student@FC-25 ~]$
[student@FC-25 ~]$ ▌
```