

**NAME**

join – join lines of two files on a common field

**SYNOPSIS**

**join** [*OPTION*]... *FILE1 FILE2*

**DESCRIPTION**

For each pair of input lines with identical join fields, write a line to standard output. The default join field is the first, delimited by blanks.

When *FILE1* or *FILE2* (not both) is –, read standard input.

**-a FILENUM**

also print unpairable lines from file *FILENUM*, where *FILENUM* is 1 or 2, corresponding to *FILE1* or *FILE2*

**-e EMPTY**

replace missing input fields with *EMPTY*

**-i, --ignore-case**

ignore differences in case when comparing fields

**-j FIELD**

equivalent to '**-1 FIELD -2 FIELD**'

**-o FORMAT**

obey *FORMAT* while constructing output line

**-t CHAR**

use *CHAR* as input and output field separator

**-v FILENUM**

like **-a FILENUM**, but suppress joined output lines

**-1 FIELD**

join on this *FIELD* of file 1

**-2 FIELD**

join on this *FIELD* of file 2

**--check-order**

check that the input is correctly sorted, even if all input lines are pairable

**--nocheck-order**

do not check that the input is correctly sorted

**--header**

treat the first line in each file as field headers, print them without trying to pair them

**-z, --zero-terminated**

line delimiter is NUL, not newline

**--help** display this help and exit

**--version**

output version information and exit

Unless **-t CHAR** is given, leading blanks separate fields and are ignored, else fields are separated by *CHAR*. Any *FIELD* is a field number counted from 1. *FORMAT* is one or more comma or blank separated specifications, each being '*FILENUM.FIELD*' or '*0*'. Default *FORMAT* outputs the join field, the remaining fields from *FILE1*, the remaining fields from *FILE2*, all separated by *CHAR*. If *FORMAT* is the keyword 'auto', then the first line of each file determines the number of fields output for each line.

Important: *FILE1* and *FILE2* must be sorted on the join fields. E.g., use "sort **-k 1b,1**" if 'join' has no options, or use "join **-t** " if 'sort' has no options. Note, comparisons honor the rules specified by 'LC\_COLLATE'. If the input is not sorted and some lines cannot be joined, a warning message will be given.

**AUTHOR**

Written by Mike Haertel.

**REPORTING BUGS**

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report join translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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**SEE ALSO**

comm(1), uniq(1)

Full documentation at: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/join>>  
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) join invocation'