NAME

test − check file types and compare values

SYNOPSIS

test *EXPRESSION*
test
[*EXPRESSION*]
[ ]
[*OPTION*

DESCRIPTION

Exit with the status determined by EXPRESSION.

−−help display this help and exit

−−version

output version information and exit

An omitted EXPRESSION defaults to false. Otherwise, EXPRESSION is true or false and sets exit status.
It is one of:

(EXPRESSION)

EXPRESSION is true

! EXPRESSION

EXPRESSION is false

EXPRESSION1 **−a** EXPRESSION2

both EXPRESSION1 and EXPRESSION2 are true

EXPRESSION1 **−o** EXPRESSION2

either EXPRESSION1 or EXPRESSION2 is true

−n STRING

the length of STRING is nonzero

STRING

equivalent to **−n** STRING

−z STRING

the length of STRING is zero

STRING1 = STRING2

the strings are equal

STRING1 != STRING2

the strings are not equal

INTEGER1 **−eq** INTEGER2

INTEGER1 is equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−ge** INTEGER2

INTEGER1 is greater than or equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−gt** INTEGER2

INTEGER1 is greater than INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−le** INTEGER2

INTEGER1 is less than or equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−lt** INTEGER2

INTEGER1 is less than INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−ne** INTEGER2

INTEGER1 is not equal to INTEGER2

FILE1 **−ef** FILE2
> FILE1 and FILE2 have the same device and inode numbers

FILE1 **−nt** FILE2
> FILE1 is newer (modification date) than FILE2

FILE1 **−ot** FILE2
> FILE1 is older than FILE2

−b FILE
> FILE exists and is block special

−c FILE
> FILE exists and is character special

−d FILE
> FILE exists and is a directory

−e FILE
> FILE exists

−f FILE
> FILE exists and is a regular file

−g FILE
> FILE exists and is set−group−ID

−G FILE
> FILE exists and is owned by the effective group ID

−h FILE
> FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **−L**)

−k FILE
> FILE exists and has its sticky bit set

−L FILE
> FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **−h**)

−O FILE
> FILE exists and is owned by the effective user ID

−p FILE
> FILE exists and is a named pipe

−r FILE
> FILE exists and read permission is granted

−s FILE
> FILE exists and has a size greater than zero

−S FILE
> FILE exists and is a socket

−t FD   file descriptor FD is opened on a terminal

−u FILE
> FILE exists and its set−user−ID bit is set

−w FILE
> FILE exists and write permission is granted

−x FILE
> FILE exists and execute (or search) permission is granted

Except for **−h** and **−L**, all FILE−related tests dereference symbolic links. Beware that parentheses need to be escaped (e.g., by backslashes) for shells. INTEGER may also be **−l** STRING, which evaluates to the length of STRING.

NOTE: Binary **−a** and **−o** are inherently ambiguous. Use 'test EXPR1 && test EXPR2' or 'test EXPR1 ||
test EXPR2' instead.

NOTE: [honors the **−−help** and **−−version** options, but test does not. test treats each of those as it treats
any other nonempty STRING.

NOTE: your shell may have its own version of test and/or [, which usually supersedes the version described
here. Please refer to your shell's documentation for details about the options it supports.

AUTHOR
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REPORTING BUGS
GNU coreutils online help: <https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
Report [translation bugs to <https://translationproject.org/team/>

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