

**NAME**

ed – line-oriented text editor

**SYNOPSIS**

**ed** [*options*] [*file*]

**DESCRIPTION**

GNU ed is a line-oriented text editor. It is used to create, display, modify and otherwise manipulate text files, both interactively and via shell scripts. A restricted version of ed, red, can only edit files in the current directory and cannot execute shell commands. Ed is the 'standard' text editor in the sense that it is the original editor for Unix, and thus widely available. For most purposes, however, it is superseded by full-screen editors such as GNU Emacs or GNU Moe.

**OPTIONS**

- h, --help**  
display this help and exit
- V, --version**  
output version information and exit
- G, --traditional**  
run in compatibility mode
- l, --loose-exit-status**  
exit with 0 status even if a command fails
- p, --prompt=STRING**  
use STRING as an interactive prompt
- r, --restricted**  
run in restricted mode
- s, --quiet, --silent**  
suppress diagnostics, byte counts and '!' prompt
- v, --verbose**  
be verbose; equivalent to the 'H' command

Start edit by reading in 'file' if given. If 'file' begins with a '!', read output of shell command.

Exit status: 0 for a normal exit, 1 for environmental problems (file not found, invalid flags, I/O errors, etc), 2 to indicate a corrupt or invalid input file, 3 for an internal consistency error (eg, bug) which caused ed to panic.

**REPORTING BUGS**

Report bugs to [bug-ed@gnu.org](mailto:bug-ed@gnu.org)  
Ed home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/ed/ed.html>  
General help using GNU software: <http://www.gnu.org/gethelp>

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**SEE ALSO**

The full documentation for **ed** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **ed** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info ed**

should give you access to the complete manual.