

**NAME**

nl – number lines of files

**SYNOPSIS**

**nl** [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

**DESCRIPTION**

Write each *FILE* to standard output, with line numbers added.

With no *FILE*, or when *FILE* is –, read standard input.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

**-b, --body-numbering=STYLE**

use *STYLE* for numbering body lines

**-d, --section-delimiter=CC**

use *CC* for logical page delimiters

**-f, --footer-numbering=STYLE**

use *STYLE* for numbering footer lines

**-h, --header-numbering=STYLE**

use *STYLE* for numbering header lines

**-i, --line-increment=NUMBER**

line number increment at each line

**-l, --join-blank-lines=NUMBER**

group of *NUMBER* empty lines counted as one

**-n, --number-format=FORMAT**

insert line numbers according to *FORMAT*

**-p, --no-renumber**

do not reset line numbers for each section

**-s, --number-separator=STRING**

add *STRING* after (possible) line number

**-v, --starting-line-number=NUMBER**

first line number for each section

**-w, --number-width=NUMBER**

use *NUMBER* columns for line numbers

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

**--version**

output version information and exit

Default options are: **-bt -d'\:' -fn -hn -il -ll -n'm' -s<TAB> -v1 -w6**

*CC* are two delimiter characters used to construct logical page delimiters; a missing second character implies `:`.

*STYLE* is one of:

**a** number all lines

**t** number only nonempty lines

**n** number no lines

**pBRE** number only lines that contain a match for the basic regular expression, *BRE*

*FORMAT* is one of:

**ln** left justified, no leading zeros

rn       right justified, no leading zeros  
rz       right justified, leading zeros

**AUTHOR**

Written by Scott Bartram and David MacKenzie.

**REPORTING BUGS**

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

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

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**SEE ALSO**

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