

# Bash scripting cheatsheet



Replace VPNs, shared credentials,  
and secrets with Teleport's access  
plane

ads via Carbon

## Introduction

This is a quick reference to getting started with Bash

### Learn bash in y minutes

([learnxinyminutes.com](https://learnxinyminutes.com))

### Bash Guide

([mywiki.woledge.org](https://mywiki.woledge.org))

### Bash Hackers Wiki

([wiki.bash-hackers.org](https://wiki.bash-hackers.org))

## Example

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash
```

```
name="John"  
echo "Hello $name!"
```

## String quotes

```
name="John"  
echo "Hi $name"    #=> Hi John  
echo 'Hi $name'    #=> Hi $name
```

## Conditional execution

```
git commit && git push  
git commit || echo "Commit failed"
```

## Shell execution

See [Command substitution](#)

## Conditionals

```
if [[ -z "$string" ]]; then  
    echo "String is empty"  
elif [[ -n "$string" ]]; then  
    echo "String is not empty"  
fi
```

## Strict mode

```
set -euo pipefail  
IFS=$'\n\t'
```

See: [Conditionals](#)See: [Unofficial bash strict mode](#)

## # Parameter expansions

### Basics

```
name="John"
echo "${name}"
echo "${name/J/j}"    #=> "john" (substitution)
echo "${name:0:2}"    #=> "Jo" (slicing)
echo "${name:2}"      #=> "Jo" (slicing)
echo "${name::-1}"    #=> "Joh" (slicing)
echo "${name:(-1)}"   #=> "n" (slicing from right)
echo "${name:(-2):1}" #=> "h" (slicing from right)
echo "${food:-Cake}"  #=> $food or "Cake"
```

```
length=2
echo "${name:0:length}" #=> "Jo"
```

See: [Parameter expansion](#)

### Substitution

`${foo%suffix}``${foo#prefix}``${foo%%suffix}``${foo/%suffix}``${foo##prefix}``${foo/#prefix}``${foo/from/to}``${foo//from/to}``${foo/%from/to}``${foo/#from/to}`

### Manipulation

```
str="HELLO WORLD!"
echo "${str,}"    #=> "HELLO WORLD!" (
echo "${str,,}"   #=> "hello world!" (

str="hello world!"
```

```
str="/path/to/foo.cpp"
echo "${str%.cpp}"      # /path/to/foo
echo "${str%.cpp}.o"    # /path/to/foo.o
echo "${str%/*}"        # /path/to

echo "${str##*.}"       # cpp (extension)
echo "${str##*/}"       # foo.cpp (basepath)

echo "${str#*/}"        # path/to/foo.cpp
echo "${str##*/}"       # foo.cpp

echo "${str/foo/bar}"   # /path/to/bar.cpp
```

```
echo "${str^}"          #=> "Hello world!" (
echo "${str^^}"         #=> "HELLO WORLD!" (
```

## # Loops

```
str="Hello world"
echo "${str:6:5}"      # "world"
echo "${str: -5:5}"    # "world"
```

### Basic for loop

```
src="/path/to/foo.cpp"

for i in /etc/rc.*; do
  echo "$i"
done
```

### C-like for loop

```
for ((i = 0 ; i < 100 ; i++)); do
  echo "$i"
done
```

### Reading lines

```
while read -r line; do
  echo "$line"
done <file.txt
```

### Forever

```
while true; do
  ...
done
```

## # Functions

### Defining functions

```
myfunc() {
  echo "hello $1"
}
```

```
# Same as above (alternate syntax)
function myfunc() {
```

### Returning values

```
myfunc() {
  local myresult='some value'
  echo "$myresult"
}
```

```
    echo "hello $1"
}
```

```
myfunc "John"
```

`$#``$*``$@``$1``$_`

**Note:** `$@` and `$*` must be quoted in order to be the same thing (arguments as separate strings)

See [Special parameters](#).

## # Conditionals

### Conditions

Note that `[[` is actually a command/program that returns either 0 or 1, which obeys the same logic (like all base utils, such as `grep(1)`), see examples.

```
[[ -z STRING ]]
```

```
[[ -n STRING ]]
```

```
[[ STRING == STRING ]]
```

```
[[ STRING != STRING ]]
```

```
[[ NUM -eq NUM ]]
```

```
[[ NUM -ne NUM ]]
```

### File conditions

```
[[ -e FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -r FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -h FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -d FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -w FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -s FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -f FILE ]]
```

```
[[ -x FILE ]]
```

```
[[ FILE1 -nt FILE2 ]]
```

<code>[[ NUM -lt NUM ]]</code>	<code>[[ FILE1 -ot FILE2 ]]</code>
<code>[[ NUM -le NUM ]]</code>	<code>[[ FILE1 -ef FILE2 ]]</code>
<code>[[ NUM -gt NUM ]]</code>	Greater than
<code>[[ NUM -ge NUM ]]</code>	Greater than or equal
<code>[[ STRING =~ STRING ]]</code>	Regexp
<code>(( NUM &lt; NUM ))</code>	Numeric conditions
More conditions	
<code>[[ -o noclobber ]]</code>	If OPTIONNAME is enabled
<code>[[ ! EXPR ]]</code>	Not
<code>[[ X &amp;&amp; Y ]]</code>	And
<code>[[ X    Y ]]</code>	Or

## # Arrays

### Defining arrays

```
Fruits=('Apple' 'Banana' 'Orange')
```

```
Fruits[0]="Apple"
Fruits[1]="Banana"
Fruits[2]="Orange"
```

### Working w

```
echo "${Fruits[@]}"
echo "${Fruits[*]}"
echo "${Fruits[@]}"
echo "${Fruits[*]}"
echo "${Fruits[@]}"
echo "${Fruits[*]}"
echo "${Fruits[@]}"
echo "${Fruits[*]}"
```

### Operations

```
Fruits=("${Fruits[@]}" "Watermelon") # Push
Fruits+=('Watermelon') # Also Push
Fruits=( "${Fruits[@]/Ap*/}" ) # Remove by regex match
```

### Iteration

```
for i in "${Fruits[@]}"
```

```
unset Fruits[2] # Remove one item
Fruits=("${Fruits[@]}") # Duplicate
Fruits=("${Fruits[@]}" "${Veggies[@]}") # Concatenate
lines=(`cat "logfile"`) # Read from file
```

```
echo "$i"
done
```

## # Dictionaries

### Defining

```
declare -A sounds
```

```
sounds[dog]="bark"
sounds[cow]="moo"
sounds[bird]="tweet"
sounds[wolf]="howl"
```

Declares sound as a Dictionary object (aka associative array).

### Working with dictionaries

```
echo "${sounds[dog]}" # Dog's sound
echo "${sounds[@]}" # All values
echo "${!sounds[@]}" # All keys
echo "${#sounds[@]}" # Number of elements
unset sounds[dog] # Delete dog
```

## # Options

### Options

```
set -o noclobber # Avoid overlay files (echo "hi" > foo)
set -o errexit # Used to exit upon error, avoiding cascading errors
set -o pipefail # Unveils hidden failures
set -o nounset # Exposes unset variables
```

### Glob options

```
shopt -s r
shopt -s f
shopt -s r
shopt -s c
shopt -s g
```

Set GLOBIGNORE

# # History

Commands	Expansion
<code>history</code>	Show <code>!\$</code>
<code>shopt -s histverify</code>	Don't execute expanded result immediately <code>!* ! !-n !n</code>

## Operations

<code>!!</code>	Execute last command again	
<code>!!:s/&lt;FROM&gt;/&lt;T0&gt;/</code>	Replace first occurrence of <FROM> to <T0> in most recent command	
<code>!!:gs/&lt;FROM&gt;/&lt;T0&gt;/</code>	Replace all occurrences of <FROM> to <T0> in most recent command	Slices
<code>!\$:t</code>	Expand only basename from last parameter of most recent command	<code>!!:n</code>
<code>!\$:h</code>	Expand only directory from last parameter of most recent command	<code>!^</code>
!! and !\$ can be replaced with any valid expansion.		<code>!\$ !!:n-m !!:n-\$ !! can be r</code>

# # Miscellaneous

Numeric calculations	Subshells
<code>\$((a + 200))</code> # Add 200 to \$a	(cd somedir pwd # still in old dir)
<code>\$((\$RANDOM%200))</code> # Random number 0..199	Redirectio

<pre>if grep -q 'foo' ~/.bash_history; then     echo "You appear to have typed 'foo' in the past" fi</pre>		-C 'It
<pre>pwd # /home/user/foo</pre>		
		\$0
<pre>read -n 1 ans    # Just one character</pre>		\$_ \$0
[:lower:]	All lower case	\${PIPESTATUS}
[:digit:]		See Special Characters
[:space:]	All whitespace	
[:alpha:]	All letters	
[:alnum:]	All letters and digits	
Example		
<pre>echo "Welcome To Devhints"   tr '[:lower:]' '[:upper:]' WELCOME TO DEVHINTS</pre>		





## # Also see

[Bash-hackers wiki](#) ([bash-hackers.org](https://bash-hackers.org))

[Shell vars](#) ([bash-hackers.org](https://bash-hackers.org))

[Learn bash in y minutes](#) ([learnxinyminutes.com](https://learnxinyminutes.com))

[Bash Guide](#) ([mywiki.woledge.org](https://mywiki.woledge.org))

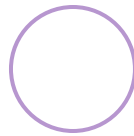
[ShellCheck](#) ([shellcheck.net](https://shellcheck.net))



---

Search 357+ cheatsheets

---



Over 357 curated cheatsheets, by developers for developers.

Devhints home

### Other CLI cheatsheets

**Cron**

cheatsheet

**Homebrew**

cheatsheet

**httpie**

cheatsheet

**adb (Android  
Debug Bridge)**

cheatsheet

**composer**

cheatsheet

**Fish shell**

cheatsheet

### Top cheatsheets

**Elixir**

cheatsheet

**ES2015+**

cheatsheet

**React.js**

cheatsheet

**Vimdiff**

cheatsheet

**Vim**

cheatsheet

**Vim scripting**

cheatsheet