

# Useful Commands

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## Basic Running

```
flex myFile.l
gcc -o output -lf1 //IF ON MAC OS USE -ll (two L's) instead!!!!!!!!!!!!
./output
```

The `-o output` is completely optional. Will default to writing a file called `a.out`.

## Pipe Input and Output

```
cat input.txt | ./a.out > tokens.txt
```

The above feeds in `input.txt` into `a.out`, which is generated from my flex file. Then, `a.out`'s output is written to a file called `tokens.txt`.

## Compare Tokens

[Reference/Source StackOverflow Answer](#)

Command to compare tokens given from assignment and tokens generated by my file.

```
diff -w -u file1.txt file2.txt | sed -n '1,2d;/^[ -+]/p'
```

`diff` finds difference between files 1 and 2

`-w` ignores whitespace

`-u` output NUM (default 3) lines of unified context

not 100% sure why or if `-u` this is necessary, probably makes it easier to parse it with the sed regex

Then it pipes into `sed`

`sed` is a stream editor to edit output of `diff`

`-n` suppress automatic printing of pattern space

**Terminal Output:** Prints `-apple` if, for example, apple is present in file1 but *NOT* file2. Prints `+apple` if apple is present in file2 but *NOT* file1. Essentially, the + and - are with respect to file1. `+apple` if adding "apple" to **file1** would obtain no difference. `-apple` if removing "apple" from **file1** would obtain no difference.

No output is printed if there are no differences.

Remove `-w` if whitespace should not be ignored.

Read `man sed` and `man diff` for further options and info.