

Table Of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Table Of Contents | 1 |
| Grep command example | 2 |

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

Search Multiple Words / String Pattern Using grep Command

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I search multiple string using grep command? For example I'd like to search word1, word2, word3 and so on within /path/to/file. How do I force grep to search multiple words?

A. grep command supports regular expression pattern.



[1]

Grep command example

To search multiple words, use following syntax:
grep 'word1|word2|word3' /path/to/file

For example, search warning, error, and critical words in a text log file called /var/log/messages, enter:

```
$ grep 'warning|error|critical' /var/log/messages
```

To just match words, add -w switch:

```
$ grep -w 'warning|error|critical' /var/log/messages
```

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>

URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/searching-multiple-words-string-using-grep/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/bash-shell/>