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## Explain Usage Of The Linux Left Bracket /usr/bin/[ Command

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**Q.** I see [ command in /usr/bin directory. What is the /usr/bin/[ command used for?

**A.** This is test command and it is used to **check file types and compare values**.

General syntax is as follows:  
[ EXPRESSION ]

For example, find out if /etc/passwd exists or not:

```
[ -f /etc/passwd ] && echo "Yes" || echo "No"
```



[1]

Regularly you write it as follows:

```
if [ -f /etc/passwd ]
then
    echo "Yes"
else
    echo "No"
fi
```

OR

```
if test -f /etc/passwd
then
    echo "Yes"
else
    echo "No"
fi
```

Read test or [ command man page for all other expressions.

```
man [
man test
```

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