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Shell: How To Remove Duplicate Text Lines

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Q. I need to sort data from a log file but there are too many duplicate lines. How do I remove all duplicate lines from a text file under GNU/Linux?

A.. You need to use shell pipes along with following two utilities:

a] **sort command** - sort lines of text files

b] **uniq command** - report or omit repeated lines



[1]

Removing Duplicate Lines With Sort, Uniq and Shell Pipes

Use the following syntax:

```
sort {file-name} | uniq -u  
sort file.log | uniq -u
```

Here is a sample test file called garbage.txt:

```
this is a test  
food that are killing you  
wings of fire  
we hope that the labor spent in creating this software  
this is a test  
unix ips as well as enjoy our blog
```

Type the following command to get rid of all duplicate lines:

```
$ sort garbage.txt | uniq -u
```

Sample output:

```
food that are killing you  
unix ips as well as enjoy our blog  
we hope that the labor spent in creating this software  
wings of fire
```

Where,

- **-u** : check for strict ordering, remove all duplicate lines.

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