

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

KSH Scripting: for loop syntax 2

KSH For Loop Command Substitution 3

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [AIX](#)

KSH For Loop Examples

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

Q. How do I use for loop in Korn Shell under UNIX / Linux / BSD / OS X operating systems?

A. The main advantage of ksh over the traditional Unix shell is in its use as a programming language. KSH support for loop.



[1]

KSH Scripting: for loop syntax

The syntax is as follows:

```
for {Variable} in {lists}
do
    echo ${Variable}
done
```

Here is sample shell script to print welcome message 5 times:

```
#!/bin/ksh
for i in 1 2 3 4 5
do
    echo "Welcome $i times"
done
```

Run script as follows:

```
$ chmod +x script.ksh
$ ./script.ksh
```

OR

```
$ ksh script.ksh
```

You can easily set ranges (1 to 10) as follows:

```
#!/bin/ksh
for i in {1..10}
do
    echo "Welcome $i times"
done
```

You can also use variables to define the item list. They will be checked ONLY ONCE, when you start the loop.

```
#!/bin/ksh
files="/etc/passwd /etc/group /etc/hosts"
for f in $files; do
    if [ ! -f $f ]
    then
        echo "$f file missing!"
    fi
done
```

Please do NOT quote "\$list", if you want the for command to use multiple items.
Another example using for explicit list:

```
#!/bin/ksh
```

```
for car in bmw ford toyota nissan
do
    print "Value of car is: $car"
done
```

KSH For Loop Command Substitution

Create a text file called spaceshuttles.txt as follows:

```
columbia
endeavour
challenger
discovery
atlantis
enterprise
pathfinder
```

Now create a shell script called demo.ksh

```
#!/bin/ksh
for shuttle in $(cat spaceshuttles.txt)
do
    print "Current Space Shuttle : $shuttle"
done
```

You can also print file names in /tmp directory:

```
#!/bin/ksh
for f in $(ls /tmp/*)
do
    print "Full file path in /tmp dir : $f"
done
```

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/ksh-for-loop/>

URLs in this post:

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