

Echo and Printf

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How to print `-n`?

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This doesn't work:

```
$ echo -- -n
-- -n.
```

Not what we want... Bash's `echo` honors [the specs](#).

The `echo` utility shall not recognize the `--` argument in the manner specified by Guideline 10 of XBD Utility Syntax Guidelines; `--` shall be recognized as a string operand.

— `echo` POSIX spec

We can `man ascii` and look for the numeric value of `-`:

Excerpt from ``man ascii``.

Oct	Dec	Hex	Char
...			
055	45	2D	-
...			

Then we can use the `-e` option for `echo` and use the octal or hexadecimal values to produce `-` and just implicitly concatenate both `-` and `n`.

```
$ echo -e '\055'n
-n

$ echo -e '\x2d'n
-n
```

"Any fool can make something complicated. It takes a genius to make it simple."

Therefore:

```
$ echo -n -; echo n;
```

Still, jokes apart, the version with `-e` and `\x2d` is cool too.

Nice question and discussion: [When and how was the double-dash \(--\) introduced as an end of options delimiter in Unix/Linux?](#)

