

# Windows cmd shell batch scripting cheat sheet

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## Controlling scripts themselves

Command	Description
<b>rem</b>	Start a comment, till the end of line. It can be used to comment out a whole line or part of it.
<b>cls</b>	Clear the screen buffer.
<b>echo <i>text to display</i></b> <b>echo off/on</b> <b>echo.</b>	Print text on line, or, with <b>off/on</b> switch without text, turn off/on echoing the commands being run. Usually, you set <b>echo off</b> as the 1st line in a batch script, and the <b>echo on</b> as the last line. Turning echoing off does not hide <i>output</i> of the commands run, just the commands themselves. The 3rd option is <b>echo</b> followed immediately by <i>dot</i> and it causes echo to print a blank line (and this is the only way to do so).
<b>@</b>	Turn off echoing only for the command preceded by this @. E.g. <b>@echo off</b> to prevent the <i>echo off</i> being printed itself.
<b>title <i>Title bar text</i></b>	Change the title of the cmd.exe window for this session. As a rule of a good style, change <i>title</i> on each stage of the script, to let users know what the script is doing.

## Script arguments

Command	Description
<b>%n</b>	Positional argument to the script from the command line. <i>n</i> can be from 0 to 9.

Command	Description
%0	The script name. The actual arguments to the script start with %1. E.g. <code>echo The script was called as %0, with the %1 as the first argument</code>
%*	The rest of the positional arguments after the 9th altogether. The individual args are not accessible directly, use <code>SHIFT</code> -ing.
<b>shift [/n]</b>	Shift positional arguments by one. If <code>/n</code> is given, will shift starting with n+1. E.g. <code>shift /4</code> will shift 5th to become 4th, 6th will become 5th, and so on, while arguments before 4 will stay untouched.