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# echo

**echo** displays (echoes) text. It is used simply, as in:

```
1 $ echo string
```

**echo** can be used to display a string on standard output (i.e. the terminal) or to place in a new file (using the **>** operator) or append to an already existing file (using the **>>** operator).

The **-e** option, along with the following switches, is used to enable special character sequences, such as the newline character or horizontal tab.

- **\n** represents newline
- **\t** represents horizontal tab

**echo** is particularly useful for viewing the values of environment variables (built-in shell variables). For example, **echo \$USERNAME** will print the name of the user who has logged into the current terminal.

The following table lists **echo** commands and their usage:

Command	Usage
<b>echo string &gt; newfile</b>	The specified string is placed in a new file
<b>echo string &gt;&gt; existingfile</b>	The specified string is appended to the end of an already existing file
<b>echo \$variable</b>	The contents of the specified environment variable are displayed

**Mark as completed**