# :mod:`rlcompleter` --- Completion function for GNU readline

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 1); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 4)
>
> Unknown directive type "module".
>
> ```
>     .. module:: rlcompleter
>        :synopsis: Python identifier completion, suitable for the GNU readline library.
> ```

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 7)
>
> Unknown directive type "sectionauthor".
>
> ```
>     .. sectionauthor:: Moshe Zadka <moshez@zadka.site.co.il>
> ```

**Source code:** :source:`Lib/rlcompleter.py`

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 9); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "source".

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The :mod:`rlcompleter` module defines a completion function suitable for the :mod:`readline` module by completing valid Python identifiers and keywords.

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 13); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 13); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

When this module is imported on a Unix platform with the :mod:`readline` module available, an instance of the :class:`Completer` class is automatically created and its :meth:`complete` method is set as the :mod:`readline` completer.

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 16); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 16); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "class".

> **System Message: ERROR/3** (`D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\(cpython-main)(Doc)(library)rlcompleter.rst`, line 16); *backlink*
>
> Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

Example:

```
>>> import rlcompleter
>>> import readline
>>> readline.parse_and_bind("tab: complete")
>>> readline. <TAB PRESSED>
readline.__doc__          readline.get_line_buffer(  readline.read_init_file(
readline.__file__         readline.insert_text(      readline.set_completer(
readline.__name__         readline.parse_and_bind(
>>> readline.
```

The :mod:`rlcompleter` module is designed for use with Python's :ref:`interactive mode <tut-interactive>`. Unless Python is run with the :option:`-S` option, the module is automatically imported and configured (see :ref:`rlcompleter-config`).

On platforms without :mod:`readline`, the :class:`Completer` class defined by this module can still be used for custom purposes.

## Completer Objects

Completer objects have the following method:

```
.. method:: Completer.complete(text, state)

   Return the *state*\ th completion for *text*.

   If called for *text* that doesn't include a period character (``'.'``), it will
   complete from names currently defined in :mod:`__main__`, :mod:`builtins` and
   keywords (as defined by the :mod:`keyword` module).

   If called for a dotted name, it will try to evaluate anything without obvious
   side-effects (functions will not be evaluated, but it can generate calls to
```

```
:meth:`__getattr__`) up to the last part, and find matches for the rest via the
:func:`dir` function.  Any exception raised during the evaluation of the
expression is caught, silenced and :const:`None` is returned.
```