

**NAME**

ls – list directory contents

**SYNOPSIS**

ls [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

**DESCRIPTION**

List information about the FILES (the current directory by default). Sort entries alphabetically if none of **-cftuvSUX** nor **--sort** is specified.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

**-a, --all**

do not ignore entries starting with .

**-A, --almost-all**

do not list implied . and ..

**--author**

with **-l**, print the author of each file

**-b, --escape**

print C-style escapes for nongraphic characters

**--block-size=SIZE**

scale sizes by SIZE before printing them; e.g., **'--block-size=M'** prints sizes in units of 1,048,576 bytes; see SIZE format below

**-B, --ignore-backups**

do not list implied entries ending with ~

**-c**

with **-lt**: sort by, and show, ctime (time of last modification of file status information); with **-l**: show ctime and sort by name; otherwise: sort by ctime, newest first

**-C**

list entries by columns

**--color[=WHEN]**

colorize the output; WHEN can be 'always' (default if omitted), 'auto', or 'never'; more info below

**-d, --directory**

list directories themselves, not their contents

**-D, --dired**

generate output designed for Emacs' dired mode

**-f**

do not sort, enable **-aU**, disable **-ls --color**

**-F, --classify**

append indicator (one of \*/=>@|) to entries

**--file-type**

likewise, except do not append '\*'

**--format=WORD**

across **-x**, commas **-m**, horizontal **-x**, long **-l**, single-column **-l**, verbose **-l**, vertical **-C**

**--full-time**

like **-l --time-style=full-iso**

**-g**

like **-l**, but do not list owner

**--group-directories-first**

group directories before files;

can be augmented with a **--sort** option, but any use of **--sort=none** (**-U**) disables grouping

- G, --no-group**  
in a long listing, don't print group names
- h, --human-readable**  
with **-l** and/or **-s**, print human readable sizes (e.g., 1K 234M 2G)
- si** likewise, but use powers of 1000 not 1024
- H, --dereference-command-line**  
follow symbolic links listed on the command line
- dereference-command-line-symlink-to-dir**  
follow each command line symbolic link  
that points to a directory
- hide=PATTERN**  
do not list implied entries matching shell PATTERN (overridden by **-a** or **-A**)
- indicator-style=WORD**  
append indicator with style WORD to entry names: none (default), slash (**-p**), file-type (**--file-type**), classify (**-F**)
- i, --inode**  
print the index number of each file
- I, --ignore=PATTERN**  
do not list implied entries matching shell PATTERN
- k, --kibibytes**  
default to 1024-byte blocks for disk usage
- l** use a long listing format
- L, --dereference**  
when showing file information for a symbolic link, show information for the file the link references rather than for the link itself
- m** fill width with a comma separated list of entries
- n, --numeric-uid-gid**  
like **-l**, but list numeric user and group IDs
- N, --literal**  
print raw entry names (don't treat e.g. control characters specially)
- o** like **-l**, but do not list group information
- p, --indicator-style=slash**  
append / indicator to directories
- q, --hide-control-chars**  
print ? instead of nongraphic characters
- show-control-chars**  
show nongraphic characters as-is (the default, unless program is 'ls' and output is a terminal)
- Q, --quote-name**  
enclose entry names in double quotes
- quoting-style=WORD**  
use quoting style WORD for entry names: literal, locale, shell, shell-always, shell-escape, shell-escape-always, c, escape
- r, --reverse**  
reverse order while sorting

- R, --recursive**  
list subdirectories recursively
- s, --size**  
print the allocated size of each file, in blocks
- S** sort by file size, largest first
- sort=WORD**  
sort by WORD instead of name: none (**-U**), size (**-S**), time (**-t**), version (**-v**), extension (**-X**)
- time=WORD**  
with **-l**, show time as WORD instead of default modification time: atime or access or use (**-u**);  
ctime or status (**-c**); also use specified time as sort key if **--sort=time** (newest first)
- time-style=STYLE**  
with **-l**, show times using style STYLE: full-iso, long-iso, iso, locale, or +FORMAT; FORMAT  
is interpreted like in 'date'; if FORMAT is FORMAT1<newline>FORMAT2, then FORMAT1  
applies to non-recent files and FORMAT2 to recent files; if STYLE is prefixed with 'posix-',  
STYLE takes effect only outside the POSIX locale
- t** sort by modification time, newest first
- T, --tabsize=COLS**  
assume tab stops at each COLS instead of 8
- u** with **-lt**: sort by, and show, access time; with **-l**: show access time and sort by name; otherwise:  
sort by access time, newest first
- U** do not sort; list entries in directory order
- v** natural sort of (version) numbers within text
- w, --width=COLS**  
set output width to COLS. 0 means no limit
- x** list entries by lines instead of by columns
- X** sort alphabetically by entry extension
- Z, --context**  
print any security context of each file
- 1** list one file per line. Avoid '\n' with **-q** or **-b**
- help** display this help and exit
- version**  
output version information and exit

The SIZE argument is an integer and optional unit (example: 10K is 10\*1024). Units are K,M,G,T,P,E,Z,Y (powers of 1024) or KB,MB,... (powers of 1000).

Using color to distinguish file types is disabled both by default and with **--color=never**. With **--color=auto**, ls emits color codes only when standard output is connected to a terminal. The LS\_COLORS environment variable can change the settings. Use the dircolors command to set it.

#### Exit status:

- 0 if OK,
- 1 if minor problems (e.g., cannot access subdirectory),
- 2 if serious trouble (e.g., cannot access command-line argument).

#### AUTHOR

Written by Richard M. Stallman and David MacKenzie.

**REPORTING BUGS**

GNU coreutils online help: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report ls translation bugs to <<http://translationproject.org/team/>>

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**SEE ALSO**

Full documentation at: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/ls>>  
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) ls invocation'