NAME

gen−passphrase − Generate random passphrases

SYNOPSIS

gen-passphrase [options] initials|word−count min-len max-len

```
 Options:
    −help       Show short usage message
    −help1      Show medium usage message
    −help2      Show long usage message
    −man        Show long usage message (invokes pager)

    −[no]suffix     Allow/disallow words ending in s, ed, ing (enabled by default)
    −verbose        Show statistics about the strength of the passphrase
    −dictionary file  Use specified word list
                    Default is /usr/share/dict/words or $PASSPHRASE_DICT
    −dev-random     Use /dev/random rather than /dev/urandom (slow)
    −debugging      Produce debugging output (developer option)
```

DESCRIPTION

gen-passphrase generates random passphrases.

It is part of the **random-passwords** package, available at

<https://github.com/Keith−S−Thompson/random−passwords>

More documentation is available there.

gen-passphrase was partly inspired by this XKCD cartoon: <http://xkcd.com/936/>, which suggests using long passphrases consisting of randomly selected English words. The example in the cartoon was ''correct horse battery staple'' (of course you shouldn't use *that* specific passphrase).

The passphrase consists of a sequence of words randomly selected from the specified word list file. The three command-line arguments (following any options) are:

1. **Either** a string of ASCII lowercase letters **or** a decimal integer
 specifying the number of words;

2. The minimum length of each word; and

3. The maximum length of each word.

OPTIONS

All options may be abbreviated uniquely. **−help** may be abbreviated as **−h**.

−help
>   Show short usage message

−help1
>   Show medium usage message

−help2
>   Show long usage message

−man
>   Show long usage message using **perldoc**, invokes pager

−[no]suffix
>   **−suffix**, the default, allows words ending in s, ed, and ing (which are typically forms of other words).
>
>   **−nosuffix** excludes such words. This typically reduces the number of available words by about half.
>   If you use this option, use **−verbose** to see the effects, and consider using more and/or longer words.

−verbose
>   Show statistics about the strength of the passphrase

−dictionary *file*
> Use specified word list

> Default is /usr/share/dict/words or `$PASSPHRASE_DICT`

−dev−random
> Use /dev/random rather than /dev/urandom

> This can be much slower and is probably unnecessary.

−debugging
> Produce debugging output (developer option)

SEE ALSO
gen-passphrase, also part of the **random-passwords** package.

<https://github.com/Keith−S−Thompson/random−passwords>.

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LICENSE AND COPYRIGHT
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