The **wc (word count)** command in Unix/Linux operating systems is used to find out number of newline count, word count, byte and characters count in a files specified by the file arguments. The syntax of wc command as shown below.

# wc [options] filenames

The following are the options and usage provided by the command.

**wc -l** : Prints the number of lines in a file.

**wc -w** : prints the number of words in a file.

**wc -c** : Displays the count of bytes in a file.

**wc -m** : prints the count of characters from a file.

**wc -L** : prints only the length of the longest line in a file.

So, let’s see how we can use the ‘wc‘ command with their few available arguments and examples in this article. We have used the ‘redhat.txt‘ file for testing the commands. Let’s find out the output of the file using [cat command](https://www.tecmint.com/13-basic-cat-command-examples-in-linux/) as shown below.

[root@redhat ~]# cat redhat.txt

Red Hat

CentOS

Fedora

Debian

Scientific Linux

OpenSuse

Ubuntu

Xubuntu

Linux Mint

Pearl Linux

Slackware

Mandriva

1. A Basic Example of WC Command

The ‘wc‘ command without passing any parameter will display a basic result of ”redhat.txt‘ file. The three numbers shown below are 12 (number of lines), 16 (number of words) and 112 (number of bytes) of the file.

[root@redhat ~]# wc redhat.txt

**12** **16** **112** redhat.txt

2. Count Number of Lines

To count number of newlines in a file use the option ‘-l‘, which prints the number of lines from a given file. Say, the following command will display the count of newlines in a file. In the output the first filed assigned as count and second field is the name of file.

[root@redhat ~]# wc -l redhat.txt

**12** redhat.txt

3. Display Number of Words

Using ‘-w‘ argument with ‘wc‘ command prints the number of words in a file. Type the following command to count the words in a file.

[root@redhat ~]# wc -w redhat.txt

**16** redhat.txt

4. Count Number of Bytes and Characters

When using options ‘-c‘ and ‘-m‘ with ‘wc‘ command will print the total number of bytes and characters respectively in a file.

[root@redhat ~]# wc -c redhat.txt

**112** redhat.txt

[root@redhat ~]# wc -m redhat.txt

**112** redhat.txt

**Cat redhat.txt | wc –l – print no of lines**