

Figure 3-3 shows part of Figure 3-1. If your working directory in the figure is *work*, then there are two pathnames for the *play* subdirectory of *carol*. You already know how to write the absolute pathname, */users/carol/play*. You can also go up one level (with “*..*”) to *carol*, then go down the tree to *play*. Figure 3-3 illustrates this.

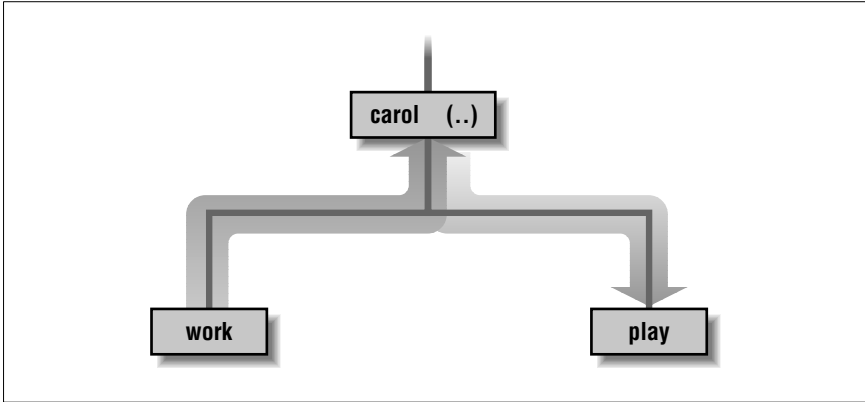


Figure 3-3. Relative pathname from *work* to *play*

The relative pathname would be *../play*. It would be wrong to give the relative address as *carol/play*. Using *carol/play* would say that *carol* is a subdirectory of your working directory instead of what it is in this case—the parent directory.

Absolute and relative pathnames are totally interchangeable. Unix programs simply follow whatever path you specify to wherever it leads. If you use an absolute pathname, the path starts from the root. If you use a relative pathname, the path starts from your working directory. Choose whichever is easier at the moment.

Changing Your Working Directory

Once you know the absolute or relative pathname of a directory where you'd like to work, you can move up and down the Unix directory tree to reach it.

pwd

^M To find which directory you're currently in, use **pwd** (print working directory). The **pwd** command takes no arguments.