## NAME

test − check file types and compare values

## SYNOPSIS

**test** *EXPRESSION*
**test**

**[** *EXPRESSION* ]
**[ ]**
**[** *OPTION*

## DESCRIPTION

Exit with the status determined by EXPRESSION.

**−−help** display this help and exit

**−−version**
output version information and exit

An omitted EXPRESSION defaults to false. Otherwise, EXPRESSION is true or false and sets exit status. It is one of:

( EXPRESSION )
EXPRESSION is true

! EXPRESSION
EXPRESSION is false

EXPRESSION1 **−a** EXPRESSION2
both EXPRESSION1 and EXPRESSION2 are true

EXPRESSION1 **−o** EXPRESSION2
either EXPRESSION1 or EXPRESSION2 is true

**−n** STRING
the length of STRING is nonzero

STRING
equivalent to **−n** STRING

**−z** STRING
the length of STRING is zero

STRING1 = STRING2
the strings are equal

STRING1 != STRING2
the strings are not equal

INTEGER1 **−eq** INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−ge** INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is greater than or equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−gt** INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is greater than INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−le** INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is less than or equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−lt** INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is less than INTEGER2

INTEGER1 **−ne** INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is not equal to INTEGER2

FILE1 **−ef** FILE2
FILE1 and FILE2 have the same device and inode numbers

FILE1 **−nt** FILE2
FILE1 is newer (modification date) than FILE2

FILE1 **−ot** FILE2
FILE1 is older than FILE2

**−b** FILE
FILE exists and is block special

**−c** FILE
FILE exists and is character special

**−d** FILE
FILE exists and is a directory

**−e** FILE
FILE exists

**−f** FILE
FILE exists and is a regular file

**−g** FILE
FILE exists and is set−group−ID

**−G** FILE
FILE exists and is owned by the effective group ID

**−h** FILE
FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **−L**)

**−k** FILE
FILE exists and has its sticky bit set

**−L** FILE
FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **−h**)

**−O** FILE
FILE exists and is owned by the effective user ID

**−p** FILE
FILE exists and is a named pipe

**−r** FILE
FILE exists and read permission is granted

**−s** FILE
FILE exists and has a size greater than zero

**−S** FILE
FILE exists and is a socket

**−t** FD file descriptor FD is opened on a terminal

**−u** FILE
FILE exists and its set−user−ID bit is set

**−w** FILE
FILE exists and write permission is granted

**−x** FILE
FILE exists and execute (or search) permission is granted

Except for **−h** and **−L**, all FILE−related tests dereference symbolic links. Beware that parentheses need to be escaped (e.g., by backslashes) for shells. INTEGER may also be **−l** STRING, which evaluates to the length of STRING.

NOTE: Binary **−a** and **−o** are inherently ambiguous. Use 'test EXPR1 && test EXPR2' or 'test EXPR1 || test EXPR2' instead.

NOTE: [ honors the **−−help** and **−−version** options, but test does not. test treats each of those as it treats any other nonempty STRING.

NOTE: your shell may have its own version of test and/or [, which usually supersedes the version described here. Please refer to your shell's documentation for details about the options it supports.

## AUTHOR

Written by Kevin Braunsdorf and Matthew Bradburn.

## REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
Report [ translation bugs to <http://translationproject.org/team/>

## COPYRIGHT



## SEE ALSO

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