

**NAME**

xgettext – extract gettext strings from source

**SYNOPSIS**

**xgettext** [*OPTION*] [*INPUTFILE*]...

**DESCRIPTION**

Extract translatable strings from given input files.

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

**Input file location:**

*INPUTFILE* ...

input files

**-f, --files-from=FILE**

get list of input files from FILE

**-D, --directory=DIRECTORY**

add DIRECTORY to list for input files search

If input file is -, standard input is read.

**Output file location:**

**-d, --default-domain=NAME**

use NAME.po for output (instead of messages.po)

**-o, --output=FILE**

write output to specified file

**-p, --output-dir=DIR**

output files will be placed in directory DIR

If output file is -, output is written to standard output.

**Choice of input file language:**

**-L, --language=NAME**

recognise the specified language (C, C++, ObjectiveC, PO, Shell, Python, Lisp, EmacsLisp, librep, Scheme, Smalltalk, Java, JavaProperties, C#, awk, YCP, Tcl, Perl, PHP, GCC-source, NXStringTable, RST, Glade, Lua, JavaScript, Vala, Desktop)

**-C, --c++**

shorthand for **--language=C++**

By default the language is guessed depending on the input file name extension.

**Input file interpretation:**

**--from-code=NAME**

encoding of input files (except for Python, Tcl, Glade)

By default the input files are assumed to be in ASCII.

**Operation mode:**

**-j, --join-existing**

join messages with existing file

**-x, --exclude-file=FILE.po**

entries from FILE.po are not extracted

**-cTAG, --add-comments=TAG**

place comment blocks starting with TAG and preceding keyword lines in output file

**-c, --add-comments**

place all comment blocks preceding keyword lines in output file

**Language specific options:**

- a, --extract-all**  
extract all strings (only languages C, C++, ObjectiveC, Shell, Python, Lisp, EmacsLisp, librep, Scheme, Java, C#, awk, Tcl, Perl, PHP, GCC-source, Glade, Lua, JavaScript, Vala)
- kWORD, --keyword=WORD**  
look for WORD as an additional keyword
- k, --keyword**  
do not to use default keywords (only languages C, C++, ObjectiveC, Shell, Python, Lisp, EmacsLisp, librep, Scheme, Java, C#, awk, Tcl, Perl, PHP, GCC-source, Glade, Lua, JavaScript, Vala, Desktop)
- flag=WORD:ARG:FLAG**  
additional flag for strings inside the argument number ARG of keyword WORD  
(only languages C, C++, ObjectiveC, Shell, Python, Lisp, EmacsLisp, librep, Scheme, Java, C#, awk, YCP, Tcl, Perl, PHP, GCC-source, Lua, JavaScript, Vala)
- T, --trigraphs**  
understand ANSI C trigraphs for input (only languages C, C++, ObjectiveC)
- qt** recognize Qt format strings (only language C++)
- kde** recognize KDE 4 format strings (only language C++)
- boost**  
recognize Boost format strings (only language C++)
- debug**  
more detailed formatstring recognition result

**Output details:**

- color**  
use colors and other text attributes always
- color=WHEN**  
use colors and other text attributes if WHEN. WHEN may be 'always', 'never', 'auto', or 'html'.
- style=STYLEFILE**  
specify CSS style rule file for **--color**
- e, --no-escape**  
do not use C escapes in output (default)
- E, --escape**  
use C escapes in output, no extended chars
- force-po**  
write PO file even if empty
- i, --indent**  
write the .po file using indented style
- no-location**  
do not write '#: filename:line' lines
- n, --add-location**  
generate '#: filename:line' lines (default)
- strict**  
write out strict Uniform conforming .po file
- properties-output**  
write out a Java .properties file

**--stringtable-output**  
write out a NeXTstep/GNUstep .strings file

**-w, --width=NUMBER**  
set output page width

**--no-wrap**  
do not break long message lines, longer than the output page width, into several lines

**-s, --sort-output**  
generate sorted output

**-F, --sort-by-file**  
sort output by file location

**--omit-header**  
don't write header with 'msgid ""' entry

**--copyright-holder=STRING**  
set copyright holder in output

**--foreign-user**  
omit FSF copyright in output for foreign user

**--package-name=PACKAGE**  
set package name in output

**--package-version=VERSION**  
set package version in output

**--msgid-bugs-address=EMAIL@ADDRESS**  
set report address for msgid bugs

**-m[STRING], --msgstr-prefix[=STRING]**  
use STRING or "" as prefix for msgstr values

**-M[STRING], --msgstr-suffix[=STRING]**  
use STRING or "" as suffix for msgstr values

#### Informative output:

**-h, --help**  
display this help and exit

**-V, --version**  
output version information and exit

## AUTHOR

Written by Ulrich Drepper.

## REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <bug-gnu-gettext@gnu.org>.

## COPYRIGHT

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## SEE ALSO

The full documentation for **xgettext** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **xgettext** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info xgettext**

should give you access to the complete manual.