

An A-Z Index of the command line (OS X bash)

a

<u>afconvert</u>	Audio File Convert
<u>afinfo</u>	Audio File Info
<u>afplay</u>	Audio File Play
<u>airport</u>	Manage Apple AirPort
<u>alias</u>	Create an alias •
<code>alloc</code>	List used and free memory
<u>apropos</u> strings	Search the whatis database for
<u>asr</u>	Apple Software Restore
<code>atsutil</code>	Font registration system utility
<u>awk</u>	Find and Replace text within file(s)

b

<u>basename</u> filename	Convert a full pathname to just a
<u>bash</u>	Bourne-Again SHell

bc Arbitrary precision calculator language

bg Send to background •

bind Set or display readline key and function bindings •

bles Set volume bootability and startup disk options

break Exit from a For, While, Until or Select loop •

builtin Execute a shell builtin •

bzip2 Compress or decompress files

c

caffeinate Prevent the system from sleeping

cal Display a calendar

calendar Reminder Service

caller Return the context of a subroutine call •

cancel Cancel print jobs

case Conditionally perform a command •

cat Concatenate and print (display) the content of files

<u>cd</u>	Change Directory •
<u>chflags</u>	Change a file or folder's flags
<u>chgrp</u>	Change group ownership
<u>chmod</u>	Change access permissions
<u>chown</u>	Change file owner and group
<u>chroot</u> directory	Run a command with a different root
<u>cksum</u>	Print CRC checksum and byte counts
clear	Clear terminal screen
<u>cmp</u>	Compare two files
<u>comm</u> line	Compare two sorted files line by
<u>command</u>	Run a command (not a function) •
<u>complete</u> [word/pattern/list]	Edit a command completion •
<u>continue</u> •	Resume the next iteration of a loop
<u>cp</u> location	Copy one or more files to another
<u>cpio</u>	Copy files to and from archives

<u>cron</u>	Daemon to execute scheduled commands
<u>crontab</u> date/time	Schedule a command to run at a later date/time
<u>csplit</u> pieces	Split a file into context-determined pieces
<u>csrutil</u> Protection (SIP)	Configure System Integrity Protection (SIP)
<u>cupsfilter</u> using cups filters	Convert a file to another format using cups filters
<u>curl</u>	Transfer data from or to a server
<u>cut</u>	Divide a file into several parts

d

<u>date</u>	Display or change the date & time
<u>dc</u>	Desk Calculator
<u>dd</u> file, clone disks	Data Duplicator - convert and copy a file, clone disks
<u>declare</u>	Declare variable & set attributes •
<u>defaults</u>	Set preferences, show hidden files
<u>df</u>	Display free disk space

[diff](#) Display the differences between two files

[diff3](#) Show differences among three files

[dig](#) DNS lookup

[dirname](#) Convert a full pathname to just a path

[dirs](#) Display list of remembered directories •

[diskutil](#) Disk utilities - Format, Verify, Repair

[disown](#) Unbind a job from the current login session •

[ditto](#) Copy files and folders

[dot_clean](#) Remove dot-underscore files

[drutil](#) Interact with CD/DVD burners

[dscacheutil](#) Query or flush the Directory Service/DNS cache

[dseditgroup](#) Edit, create, manipulate, or delete groups

[dsenableroot](#) Enable root access

dsmemberutil View user and groups rights

<u>dscl</u> utility	Directory Service command line
<u>du</u>	Estimate file space usage
e	
<u>echo</u>	Display text on screen •
ed	A line-oriented text editor (edlin)
<u>enable</u> commands •	Enable and disable builtin shell
<u>env</u>	List or Set environment variables
<u>eval</u> •	Evaluate several commands/arguments
<u>exec</u>	Execute a command •
<u>exit</u>	Exit the shell •
<u>execsnoop</u>	Snoop new process execution
<u>expand</u>	Convert tabs to spaces
expect programs	Programmed dialogue with interactive Also see <u>AppleScript</u>
<u>export</u>	Set an environment variable •
<u>expr</u>	Evaluate expressions

f

<u>false</u>	Do nothing, unsuccessfully
<u>fc</u>	Fix command (history)
<u>fdisk</u>	Partition table manipulator for Darwin UFS/HFS/DOS
<u>fdesetup</u>	FileVault configuration, list FileVault users
<u>fg</u>	Send job to foreground •
<u>file</u>	Determine file type
<u>find</u> criteria	Search for files that meet a desired criteria
<u>fmt</u>	Reformat paragraph text
<u>fold</u>	Wrap text to fit a specified width
<u>for</u>	Loop command •
<u>fsck</u> repair	Filesystem consistency check and repair
<u>fs_usage</u>	Filesystem usage (process/pathname)
<u>ftp</u>	Internet file transfer program
<u>function</u>	Define Function Macros

fuser List processes that have one or more files open

g

GetFileInfo Get attributes of HFS+ files

getopt Parse positional parameters

getopts Parse positional parameters •

goto Jump to label and continue execution

grep Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern

groups Print group names a user is in

gzip Compress or decompress files

h

halt Stop and restart the operating system

hash Refresh the cached/remembered location of commands •

head Display the first lines of a file

hdiutil Manipulate iso disk images

history Command History •

hostname Print or set system name

i

<u>iconv</u>	Convert the character set of a file
<u>id</u>	Print user and group names/id's
<u>if</u>	Conditionally perform a command •
<u>ifconfig</u> parameters	Configure network interface
<u>iostat</u>	Report CPU and i/o statistics
<u>ipconfig</u> state	View and control IP configuration
<u>info</u>	Help info
<u>install</u>	Copy files and set attributes
<u>iosnoop</u>	Snoop I/O events as they occur

j

<u>jobs</u>	List active jobs •
<u>join</u>	Join lines on a common field

k

<u>kextfind</u>	List kernel extensions
<u>kextstat</u> extensions	Display status of loaded kernel (kexts)

kextunload Terminate driver instances and unload kernel extensions.

kickstart Configure Apple Remote Desktop

kill Kill a process by specifying its PID

killall Kill processes by name

1

l List files in long format (ls -l)

last Indicate last logins of users and ttys

launchctl Load or unload daemons/agents

ll List files in long format, showing invisible files (ls -la)

less Display output one screen at a time

let Evaluate expression •

lipo Convert a universal binary

ln Make links between files (hard links, symbolic links)

local Set a local (function) variable •

locate Find files

<u>logname</u>	Print current login name
<u>login</u>	log into the computer
<u>logout</u>	Exit a login shell (bye) •
<u>look</u> string	Display lines beginning with a given string
<u>lp</u>	Print files
<u>lpr</u>	Print files
<u>lprm</u>	Remove jobs from the print queue
<u>lpstat</u>	Printer status information
<u>ls</u>	List information about file(s)
<u>lsregister</u>	Reset the Launch Services database
<u>lsbom</u>	List a bill of materials file
<u>lsof</u>	List open files

m

man	Help manual
<u>mdfind</u>	Spotlight search
<u>mdls</u>	List the metadata attributes for a specified file
<u>mdutil</u>	Manage Spotlight metadata store

<u>mkdir</u>	Create new folder(s)
<u>mkfifo</u>	Make FIFOs (named pipes)
<u>mkfile</u>	Make a file
<u>mktemp</u>	Make a temporary file
<u>more</u>	Display output one screen at a time
<u>mount</u>	Mount a file system
<u>mv</u>	Move or rename files or directories

n

<u>nano</u>	Simple text editor
<u>nc/netcat</u>	Read and write data across networks
<u>net</u>	Manage network resources
netstat	Show network status
networksetup	Network and System Preferences
<u>nice</u>	Set the priority of a command
<u>nohup</u>	Run a command immune to hangups
<u>ntfs.util</u>	NTFS file system utility
<u>nvr</u>	Manipulate firmware variables

o

onintr Control the action of a shell
interrupt

open Open a file/folder/URL/Application

opensnoop Snoop file opens as they occur

openssl OpenSSL command line

osacompile Compile Applescript

osascript Execute AppleScript

p

passwd Modify a user password

paste Merge lines of files

pbcopy Copy data to the clipboard

pbpaste Paste data from the Clipboard

pgrep List processes by a full or partial
name

ping Test a network connection

pkill Kill processes by a full or partial
name

pkgbuild Build a macOS Installer component
package

<code>pkgutil</code> packages	Query and manipulate installed
<code>plutil</code>	Property list utility
<u><code>pmset</code></u>	Power Management settings
<u><code>popd</code></u> current directory	Restore the previous value of the current directory •
<u><code>pr</code></u>	Convert text files for printing
<u><code>printenv</code></u>	List environment variables
<u><code>printf</code></u>	Format and print data •
<u><code>ps</code></u>	Process status
<u><code>pushd</code></u> directory	Save and then change the current directory
<u><code>pwd</code></u>	Print Working Directory •
q	
<u><code>quota</code></u>	Display disk usage and limits
r	
<u><code>rcp</code></u>	Copy files between machines
<u><code>read</code></u>	Read one line from standard input •

readonly Mark a variable or function as read-only •

`reboot` Stop and restart the system

ReportCrash Enable/Disable crash reporting

return Exit a function •

rev Reverse lines of a file

rm Remove files

rmdir Remove folder(s)

rpm Remote Package Manager

rsync Remote file copy - Sync file tree

S

say Convert text to audible speech

screen Multiplex terminal, run remote shells via ssh

screencapture Capture screen image to file or disk

scselect Switch between network locations

scutil Manage system configuration parameters

sdiff Merge two files interactively

[security](#) Administer Keychains, keys, certificates and the Security framework

[sed](#) Stream Editor

[select](#) Generate a list of items •

[serverinfo](#) Server information

[set](#) Set a shell variable = value •

[setfile](#) Set attributes of HFS+ files

[sharing](#) Create share points for afp, ftp and smb services

[shasum](#) Print or Check SHA Checksums

[shift](#) Shift positional parameters •

[shopt](#) Set shell options •

[shutdown](#) Shutdown or restart macOS

[sips](#) Scriptable image processing system

[sleep](#) Delay for a specified time

[softwareupdate](#) System software update tool

[sort](#) Sort text files

[source](#) Execute commands from a file •

spctl Security assessment
policy/Gatekeeper

[split](#) Split a file into fixed-size pieces

[sqlite3](#) SQL database (download history)

[srm](#) Securely remove files or directories

[stat](#) Display the status of a file

[stop](#) Stop a job or process

[su](#) Substitute user identity

[sudo](#) Execute a command as another user

[sum](#) Print a checksum for a file

[suspend](#) Suspend execution of this shell •

[sw_vers](#) Print macOS operating system version

[sysctl](#) Get or set kernel state

[system_profiler](#) Report system configuration

[systemsetup](#) Computer and display system
settings

t

[tail](#) Output the last part of files

[tar](#) Tape ARchiver

<u>tccutil</u>	Manage the privacy database
<u>tcpdump</u>	Dump traffic on a network
<u>tee</u>	Redirect output to multiple files
<u>test</u>	Condition evaluation •
<u>textutil</u>	Manipulate text files in various formats (Doc,html,rtf)
<u>time</u>	Measure Program Resource Use
<u>times</u>	Print shell & shell process times •
<u>tmutil</u>	Time Machine utility
<u>top</u>	Display process information
<u>touch</u>	Change file timestamps
<u>tput</u>	Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position
<u>tr</u>	Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
<u>trap</u>	Execute a command when the shell receives a signal •
<u>traceroute</u>	Trace Route to Host
<u>trimforce</u>	Enable TRIM commands on third-party drives

<u>true</u>	Do nothing, successfully
<u>tty</u>	Print filename of terminal on stdin
<u>type</u>	Describe a command •

u

ufs.util	Mount/unmount UFS file system
<u>ulimit</u>	limit the use of system-wide resources •
<u>umask</u>	Users file creation mask
<u>umount</u>	Unmount a device
<u>unalias</u>	Remove an alias •
<u>uname</u>	Print the Darwin OS Kernel version / release / machine name
<u>unexpand</u>	Convert spaces to tabs
<u>uniq</u>	Uniquify files
<u>units</u>	Convert units from one scale to another
<u>unset</u>	Remove variable or function names •
<u>until</u>	Loop command •

<u>uptime</u> running	Show how long system has been running
<u>users</u> logged in	Print login names of users currently logged in
<u>until</u>	Execute commands (until error)
<u>uuencode</u>	Encode a binary file
<u>uudecode</u>	Decode a file created by uuencode
<u>uuidgen</u>	Generate a Unique ID (UUID/GUID)
uucp	Unix to Unix copy

v

<u>vi</u>	Text Editor
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w

<u>w</u> are doing	Show who is logged on and what they are doing
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<u>wait</u>	Wait for a process to complete •
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<u>wall</u>	Write a message to users
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<u>wc</u>	Print byte, word, and line counts
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<u>whatis</u> complete words	Search the whatis database for complete words
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<u>whereis</u>	Locate a program
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which Locate a program file in the user's path

while Loop command •

who Print all usernames currently logged on

whoami Print the current user id and name
(`id -un`)

write Send a message to another user

x

xargs Execute utility - passing arguments

xattr Display and manipulate extended attributes

xcode-select --install Install the command line developer tools

y

youtube-dl Download video

yes Print a string until interrupted

z

zip Package and compress (archive) files.

!! Run the last command again

Commands marked • are bash *built-in* commands. bash is the default shell, it runs under [Darwin](#) the open source core of macOS.

In macOS Catalina the default shell will change to zsh and in time this page will be updated to include that.