

## NAME

Text::ParseWords - parse text into an array of tokens or array of arrays

## SYNOPSIS

```
use Text::ParseWords;
@lists = &nested_quotewords($delim, $keep, @lines);
@words = &quotewords($delim, $keep, @lines);
@words = &shellwords(@lines);
@words = &parse_line($delim, $keep, $line);
@words = &old_shellwords(@lines); # DEPRECATED!
```

## DESCRIPTION

The `&nested_quotewords()` and `&quotewords()` functions accept a delimiter (which can be a regular expression) and a list of lines and then breaks those lines up into a list of words ignoring delimiters that appear inside quotes. `&quotewords()` returns all of the tokens in a single long list, while `&nested_quotewords()` returns a list of token lists corresponding to the elements of `@lines`. `&parse_line()` does tokenizing on a single string. The `&*quotewords()` functions simply call `&parse_line()`, so if you're only splitting one line you can call `&parse_line()` directly and save a function call.

The `$keep` argument is a boolean flag. If true, then the tokens are split on the specified delimiter, but all other characters (quotes, backslashes, etc.) are kept in the tokens. If `$keep` is false then the `&*quotewords()` functions remove all quotes and backslashes that are not themselves backslash-escaped or inside of single quotes (i.e., `&quotewords()` tries to interpret these characters just like the Bourne shell). NB: these semantics are significantly different from the original version of this module shipped with Perl 5.000 through 5.004. As an additional feature, `$keep` may be the keyword "delimiters" which causes the functions to preserve the delimiters in each string as tokens in the token lists, in addition to preserving quote and backslash characters.

`&shellwords()` is written as a special case of `&quotewords()`, and it does token parsing with whitespace as a delimiter-- similar to most Unix shells.

## EXAMPLES

The sample program:

```
use Text::ParseWords;
@words = &quotewords('\s+', 0, q{this    is "a test" of\ quotewords \"for
you});
$i = 0;
foreach (@words) {
    print "$i: <$_>\n";
    $i++;
}
```

produces:

```
0: <this>
1: <is>
2: <a test>
3: <of quotewords>
4: <"for>
5: <you>
```

demonstrating:

```
0    a simple word
```

- 1 multiple spaces are skipped because of our \$delim
- 2 use of quotes to include a space in a word
- 3 use of a backslash to include a space in a word
- 4 use of a backslash to remove the special meaning of a double-quote
- 5 another simple word (note the lack of effect of the backslashed double-quote)

Replacing `&quotewords('\s+', 0, q{this is...})` with `&shellwords(q{this is...})` is a simpler way to accomplish the same thing.

## AUTHORS

Maintainer is Hal Pomeranz <pomeranz@netcom.com>, 1994-1997 (Original author unknown). Much of the code for `&parse_line()` (including the primary regexp) from Joerk Behrends <jbehrends@multimediaproduzenten.de>.

Examples section another documentation provided by John Heidemann <johnh@ISI.EDU>

Bug reports, patches, and nagging provided by lots of folks-- thanks everybody! Special thanks to Michael Schwern <schwern@envirolink.org> for assuring me that a `&nested_quotewords()` would be useful, and to Jeff Friedl <jfriedl@yahoo-inc.com> for telling me not to worry about error-checking (sort of-- you had to be there).