**Head Command Examples**

The head command in unix or linux system is used to print the first N lines from the file to the terminal. The syntax of head command is 

head [options] [files]

The **head command options** are:

* c : Prints the first N bytes of file; With leading -, prints all but the last N bytes of the file.
* n : Prints first N lines; With leading - print all but the last N lines of each file.

**Head Command Examples**:   
Create the following file in your linux or unix operating system for practicing the examples: 

> cat example.txt

linux storage

ubuntu os

fedora

1. Display first 10 lines   
  
By default, the head command prints the first 10 lines from a file. 

> head example.txt

2. Display first N lines   
  
Use the -n option to **print the first n lines from a file**. The following example prints the first 2 lines from the file: 

> head -n2 example.txt

linux storage

ubuntu os

3. Skip last N lines   
  
You can **skip the last N lines from a file** and print the remaining lines. The following example skips the last 2 lines and prints the remaining lines. 

> head -n-2 example.txt

linux storage

4. Print the first n bytes.   
  
use the -c option to **print the first N bytes from the file**. The following example prints the first 5 bytes from the file. 

> head -c5 example.txt

linux

5. Skip printing last n bytes.   
  
Use the leading "-", to skip printing last N bytes. 

> head -c-7 example.txt

linux storage

ubuntu os

6. Print line between M and N lines.   
  
You can combine the head command with tail command to **print lines between the line numbers M and N**. The following command prints the lines between numbers 5 and 10. 

> head -n10 filename | tail -5