

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

<code>afconvert</code>	Audio File Convert
<code>afinfo</code>	Audio File Info
<code>afplay</code>	Audio File Play
<code>airport</code>	Manage Apple AirPort
<code>alias</code>	Create an alias •
<code>alloc</code>	List used and free memory
<code>apropos</code>	Search the whatis database for strings
<code>asr</code>	Apple Software Restore
<code>atsutil</code>	Font registration system utility
<code>awk</code>	Find and Replace text within file(s)
b	
<code>basename</code>	Convert a full pathname to just a filename
<code>bash</code>	Bourne-Again SHell
<code>bc</code>	Arbitrary precision calculator language
<code>bg</code>	Send to background •
<code>bind</code>	Set or display readline key and function bindings •
<code>blesss</code>	Set volume bootability and startup disk options
<code>break</code>	Exit from a For, While, Until or Select loop •
<code>builtin</code>	Execute a shell builtin •
<code>bzip2</code>	Compress or decompress files
c	
<code>caffeinate</code>	Prevent the system from sleeping
<code>cal</code>	Display a calendar
<code>calendar</code>	Reminder Service
<code>caller</code>	Return the context of a subroutine call •
<code>cancel</code>	Cancel print jobs
<code>case</code>	Conditionally perform a command •
<code>cat</code>	Concatenate and print (display) the content of files
<code>cd</code>	Change Directory •
<code>chflags</code>	Change a file or folder's flags
<code>chgrp</code>	Change group ownership
<code>chmod</code>	Change access permissions
<code>chown</code>	Change file owner and group
<code>chroot</code>	Run a command with a different root directory
<code>cksum</code>	Print CRC checksum and byte counts
<code>clear</code>	Clear terminal screen
<code>cmp</code>	Compare two files
<code>comm</code>	Compare two sorted files line by line
<code>command</code>	Run a command (not a function) •
<code>complete</code>	Edit a command completion [word/pattern/list] •
<code>continue</code>	Resume the next iteration of a loop •
<code>cp</code>	Copy one or more files to another location
<code>cpio</code>	Copy files to and from archives
<code>cron</code>	Daemon to execute scheduled commands
<code>crontab</code>	Schedule a command to run at a later date/time
<code>csplit</code>	Split a file into context-determined pieces
<code>csrutil</code>	Configure System Integrity Protection (SIP)
<code>cupsfilter</code>	Convert a file to another format using cups filters
<code>curl</code>	Transfer data from or to a server
<code>cut</code>	Divide a file into several parts
d	
<code>date</code>	Display or change the date & time
<code>dc</code>	Desk Calculator
<code>dd</code>	Data Duplicator - convert and copy a file, clone disks
<code>declare</code>	Declare variable & set attributes •
<code>defaults</code>	Set preferences, show hidden files
<code>df</code>	Display free disk space
<code>diff</code>	Display the differences between two files
<code>diff3</code>	Show differences among three files

<code>dig</code>	DNS lookup
<code>dirname</code>	Convert a full pathname to just a path
<code>dirs</code>	Display list of remembered directories •
<code>diskutil</code>	Disk utilities - Format, Verify, Repair
<code>disown</code>	Unbind a job from the current login session •
<code>ditto</code>	Copy files and folders
<code>dot_clean</code>	Remove dot-underscore files
<code>drutil</code>	Interact with CD/DVD burners
<code>dscacheutil</code>	Query or flush the Directory Service/DNS cache
<code>dseditgroup</code>	Edit, create, manipulate, or delete groups
<code>dsenableroot</code>	Enable root access
<code>dsmemberutil</code>	View user and groups rights
<code>dscl</code>	Directory Service command line utility
<code>du</code>	Estimate file space usage

e

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

f

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

g

<code>GetFileInfo</code>	Get attributes of HFS+ files
<code>getopt</code>	Parse positional parameters
<code>getopts</code>	Parse positional parameters •
<code>goto</code>	Jump to label and continue execution
<code>grep</code>	Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
<code>groups</code>	Print group names a user is in
<code>gzip</code>	Compress or decompress files

h

<code>halt</code>	Stop and restart the operating system
<code>hash</code>	Refresh the cached/remembered location of commands •
<code>head</code>	Display the first lines of a file
<code>hdiutil</code>	Manipulate iso disk images
<code>history</code>	Command History •
<code>hostname</code>	Print or set system name

i

<code>iconv</code>	Convert the character set of a file
<code>id</code>	Print user and group names/id's

if	Conditionally perform a command •
ifconfig	Configure network interface parameters
iostat	Report CPU and i/o statistics
ipconfig	View and control IP configuration state
info	Help info
install	Copy files and set attributes
iosnoop	Snoop I/O events as they occur
j	
jobs	List active jobs •
join	Join lines on a common field
k	
kextfind	List kernel extensions
kextstat	Display status of loaded kernel extensions (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
l	
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
logname	Print current login name
login	log into the computer
logout	Exit a login shell (bye) •
look	Display lines beginning with a given string
lp	Print files
lpr	Print files
lprm	Remove jobs from the print queue
lpstat	Printer status information
ls	List information about file(s)
lsregister	Reset the Launch Services database
lsbom	List a bill of materials file
lsof	List open files
m	
man	Help manual
mdfind	Spotlight search
mdls	List the metadata attributes for a specified file
mdutil	Manage Spotlight metadata store
mkdir	Create new folder(s)
mkfifo	Make FIFOs (named pipes)
mkfile	Make a file
mktemp	Make a temporary file
more	Display output one screen at a time
mount	Mount a file system
mv	Move or rename files or directories
n	
nano	Simple text editor
nc/netcat	Read and write data across networks
net	Manage network resources
netstat	Show network status
networksetup	Network and System Preferences
nice	Set the priority of a command
nohup	Run a command immune to hangups
ntfs.util	NTFS file system utility
nvrnm	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
`pkgutil` Query and manipulate installed packages
`plutil` Property list utility
`pmset` Power Management settings
`popd` Restore the previous value of the current directory •
`pr` Convert text files for printing
`printenv` List environment variables
`printf` Format and print data •
`ps` Process status
`pushd` Save and then change the current directory
`pwd` Print Working Directory •

q

`quota` Display disk usage and limits

r

`rcp` Copy files between machines
`read` 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
tccutil	Manage the privacy database
tcpdump	Dump traffic on a network
tee	Redirect output to multiple files
test	Condition evaluation •
textutil	Manipulate text files in various formats (Doc,html,rtf)
time	Measure Program Resource Use
times	Print shell & shell process times •
tmutil	Time Machine utility
top	Display process information
touch	Change file timestamps
tput	Set terminal-dependent capabilities, color, position
tr	Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
trap	Execute a command when the shell receives a signal •
traceroute	Trace Route to Host
trimforce	Enable TRIM commands on third-party drives
true	Do nothing, successfully
tty	Print filename of terminal on stdin
type	Describe a command •
u	
ufs.util	Mount/unmount UFS file system
ulimit	limit the use of system-wide resources •
umask	Users file creation mask
umount	Unmount a device
unalias	Remove an alias •
uname	Print the Darwin OS Kernel version / release / machine name
unexpand	Convert spaces to tabs
uniq	Uniquify files
units	Convert units from one scale to another
unset	Remove variable or function names •
until	Loop command •
uptime	Show how long system has been running
users	Print login names of users currently logged in
until	Execute commands (until error)
uuencode	Encode a binary file
uudecode	Decode a file created by uuencode
uuidgen	Generate a Unique ID (UUID/GUID)
uucp	Unix to Unix copy
v	
vi	Text Editor
w	
w	Show who is logged on and what they are doing
wait	Wait for a process to complete •
wall	Write a message to users
wc	Print byte, word, and line counts

<code>whatis</code>	Search the <code>whatis</code> database for complete words
<code>whereis</code>	Locate a program
<code>which</code>	Locate a program file in the user's path
<code>while</code>	Loop command •
<code>who</code>	Print all usernames currently logged on
<code>whoami</code>	Print the current user id and name (<code>`id -un`</code>)
<code>write</code>	Send a message to another user
x	
<code>xargs</code>	Execute utility - passing arguments
<code>xattr</code>	Display and manipulate extended attributes
<code>xcode-select --install</code>	Install the command line developer tools
<code>youtube-dl</code>	Download video
<code>yes</code>	Print a string until interrupted
<code>zip</code>	Package and compress (archive) files.
<code>!!</code>	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.