

NAME

test – check file types and compare values

SYNOPSIS

test *EXPRESSION*

test

[*EXPRESSION*]

[]

[*OPTION*

DESCRIPTION

Exit with the status determined by *EXPRESSION*.

—**help** display this help and exit

—**version**

output version information and exit

An omitted *EXPRESSION* defaults to false. Otherwise, *EXPRESSION* is true or false and sets exit status.

It is one of:

(*EXPRESSION*)

EXPRESSION is true

! *EXPRESSION*

EXPRESSION is false

EXPRESSION1 **–a** *EXPRESSION2*

both *EXPRESSION1* and *EXPRESSION2* are true

EXPRESSION1 **–o** *EXPRESSION2*

either *EXPRESSION1* or *EXPRESSION2* is true

–n *STRING*

the length of *STRING* is nonzero

STRING

equivalent to **–n** *STRING*

–z *STRING*

the length of *STRING* is zero

STRING1 = *STRING2*

the strings are equal

STRING1 != *STRING2*

the strings are not equal

INTEGER1 **–eq** *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 is equal to *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 **–ge** *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 is greater than or equal to *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 **–gt** *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 is greater than *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 **–le** *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 is less than or equal to *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 **–lt** *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 is less than *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 **–ne** *INTEGER2*

INTEGER1 is not equal to *INTEGER2*

FILE1 -ef FILE2
FILE1 and FILE2 have the same device and inode numbers

FILE1 -nt FILE2
FILE1 is newer (modification date) than FILE2

FILE1 -ot FILE2
FILE1 is older than FILE2

-b FILE
FILE exists and is block special

-c FILE
FILE exists and is character special

-d FILE
FILE exists and is a directory

-e FILE
FILE exists

-f FILE
FILE exists and is a regular file

-g FILE
FILE exists and is set-group-ID

-G FILE
FILE exists and is owned by the effective group ID

-h FILE
FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **-L**)

-k FILE
FILE exists and has its sticky bit set

-L FILE
FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **-h**)

-N FILE
FILE exists and has been modified since it was last read

-O FILE
FILE exists and is owned by the effective user ID

-p FILE
FILE exists and is a named pipe

-r FILE
FILE exists and read permission is granted

-s FILE
FILE exists and has a size greater than zero

-S FILE
FILE exists and is a socket

-t FD file descriptor FD is opened on a terminal

-u FILE
FILE exists and its set-user-ID bit is set

-w FILE
FILE exists and write permission is granted

-x FILE
FILE exists and execute (or search) permission is granted

Except for **-h** and **-L**, all **FILE**-related tests dereference symbolic links. Beware that parentheses need to be escaped (e.g., by backslashes) for shells. **INTEGER** may also be **-I STRING**, which evaluates to the length of **STRING**.

NOTE: Binary **-a** and **-o** are inherently ambiguous. Use `'test EXPR1 && test EXPR2'` or `'test EXPR1 || test EXPR2'` instead.

NOTE: `[` honors the **--help** and **--version** options, but `test` does not. `test` treats each of those as it treats any other nonempty **STRING**.

NOTE: your shell may have its own version of `test` and/or `[`, which usually supersedes the version described here. Please refer to your shell's documentation for details about the options it supports.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report any translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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SEE ALSO

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>
or available locally via: `info '(coreutils) test invocation'`