

## Essential Matlab grammar

Below is an incomplete grammar for Matlab, adapted from [a grammar posted at Stackoverflow](#). (Octave has a complete parser.) Symbols in single quotes and words in UPPERCASE are tokens. In Matlab try `help punct`, `help ':'`, `help relop`, `help if`, `help while`, `help clear`, etc.

```
statement
    -> global_statement
    -> clear_statement
    -> assignment_statement
    -> expression_statement
    -> selection_statement
    -> iteration_statement
    -> jump_statement

statement_list
    -> statement
    -> statement_list statement

eostmt
    -> ','
    -> ';'
    -> CR

global_statement
    -> GLOBAL identifier_list eostmt

clear_statement
    -> CLEAR identifier_list eostmt

identifier_list
    -> IDENTIFIER
    -> identifier_list IDENTIFIER

assignment_statement
    -> assignment_expression eostmt

assignment_expression
    -> postfix_expression '=' expression

expression_statement
    -> eostmt
    -> expression eostmt

selection_statement
    -> IF expression statement_list END eostmt
    -> IF expression statement_list ELSE statement_list END eostmt
    -> IF expression statement_list elseif_clause END eostmt
    -> IF expression statement_list elseif_clause ELSE statement_list END eostmt

elseif_clause
    -> ELSEIF expression statement_list
    -> elseif_clause ELSEIF expression statement_list

iteration_statement
    -> WHILE expression statement_list END eostmt
    -> FOR IDENTIFIER '=' expression statement_list END eostmt
    -> FOR '(' IDENTIFIER '=' expression ')' statement_list END eostmt

jump_statement
    -> BREAK eostmt
    -> RETURN eostmt

translation_unit
    -> statement_list
    -> FUNCTION function_declare eostmt statement_list

function_identifier_list
    -> IDENTIFIER
    -> function_identifier_list ',' IDENTIFIER

function_return_list
    -> IDENTIFIER
    -> '[' function_identifier_list ']'

function_declare_lhs
    -> IDENTIFIER
    -> IDENTIFIER '(' ')'
    -> IDENTIFIER '(' function_identifier_list ')'

function_declare
    -> function_declare_lhs
    -> function_return_list '=' function_declare_lhs
```

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```
expression
    -> or_expression
    -> expression ':' or_expression
or_expression
    -> and_expression
    -> or_expression '|' and_expression
and_expression
    -> equality_expression
    -> and_expression '&' equality_expression
equality_expression
    -> relational_expression
    -> equality_expression '==' relational_expression
    -> equality_expression '~=' relational_expression
relational_expression
    -> additive_expression
    -> relational_expression '<' additive_expression
    -> relational_expression '>' additive_expression
    -> relational_expression '<=' additive_expression
    -> relational_expression '>=' additive_expression
additive_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression
    -> additive_expression '+' multiplicative_expression
    -> additive_expression '-' multiplicative_expression
multiplicative_expression
    -> unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '*' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '/' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '\' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '^' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '.*' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression './' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '\.' unary_expression
    -> multiplicative_expression '.^' unary_expression
unary_expression
    -> postfix_expression
    -> unary_operator postfix_expression
unary_operator
    -> '+'
    -> '-'
    -> '~'
postfix_expression
    -> primary_expression
    -> IDENTIFIER '(' index_expression_list ')'
    -> postfix_expression HTRANSPOSE          %%% HTRANSPOSE = '
    -> postfix_expression TRANSPOSE            %%% TRANSPOSE = .'
primary_expression
    -> IDENTIFIER
    -> CONSTANT
    -> STRING                                %%% STRINGS are quoted with '
    -> '(' expression ')'
    -> '[' ']'
    -> '[' array_list ']'
array_list
    -> array_element
    -> array_list array_element
array_element
    -> expression
    -> expression_statement
index_expression
    -> ':'
    -> expression
index_expression_list
    -> index_expression
    -> index_expression_list ',' index_expression
```