

Bash

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The “*bourne again shell*”; descending from *bourne sh*, which supplanted *csh*, the “C shell”.
echo \$SHELL # current shell
chsh /bin/sh # Δ default

1 Command-Line Editing

Wildcards

~ expand to user's home dir
? match a single char
* match string of chars
[] any char in set
[!] any char not in set
\$ expands to all alternatives
\<char> escape <char> to normal
'<wild>' wildcard → literal
_ line continuation

Examples:

```
[abc] # set match
[a-c] # same as above
~alice # alice's home
ls *.c,h,o # C program files
find . -name '*c' # delay wildcd expand
echo '2 * 3 > 5' # wildcd → literals
```

Quoting Rules

Single quotes around strings suppress all wildcard expansion; double quotes suppress everything but \${...} expansion. In general, use single quotes, except when requiring dollar-sign expansion.

Control Keys

Use **trap** to handle signals, which are issued like:

```
ctrl-c stop current command
ctrl-d end of input
ctrl-\ quit
ctrl-s halt output to screen
ctrl-q restart output to screen
ctrl-? erase last character
ctrl-u erase entire command line
ctrl-z suspend current command
```

Hot Keys (“bindings”)

bind ties key sequences to certain activities. System-wide bindings are in /etc/inputrc and user-specific in ~/.inputrc. These customizations control the command-line interpreter, which is named **readline**.

```
bind ""\C-t": "test" # bind string test
bind -x ""\C-t": "date" # bind executable
bind -l # list bindable f'ns
bind -P # list all bindings
```

2 History Expansion

History expansion offers advanced techniques, but it is often better to use *emacs* or *vi*-style command editing instead.

Event Designators

```
! start hist substitution
!! last command
!
```

Word Designators

“Word designators” and “modifiers” must be separated from “event designator” using a colon (:).

```
0 zero-th word in a line
<int> <int>th word in a line
^ first argument in a line
$ last arg in a line
% match of most recent search
<int>-<int> range of words
* all words but the first
<int>* equivalent to <int>-$
<int>- words from <int> to penult.
```

Modifiers

```
h remove pathname, leaving head
r remove trailing suffix
e remove all but suffix
t remove leading path (tail remains)
p only print resulting command
q quote the substituted words
x ibid, breaking into words
<sed> <sed> substitution ( s/old/new/)
```

Examples

```
!2048:p # print 2048th cmd
!!:0 newarg # last cmd, new args
```

3 Emacs Mode

The default command-line editor; change with:
set -o vi # ... to vi editor

Character Movement / Editing

```
ctrl-b back one char
ctrl-f forward one char
del delete one char back
ctrl-d delete one char forward
```

Word Movement / Editing

```
esc-b move one word back
esc-f move one word forward
esc-del kill one word back
esc-ctrl-h kill one word back
esc-d kill one word forward
ctrl-y yank last item killed
```

Line and History Commands

```
ctrl-a move to line begin
ctrl-f move to end of line
ctrl-k kill to end of line
ctrl-p move up line
ctrl-n move to next line
ctrl-r search backward
esc-< move to 1st hist line
esc-> move to last hist line
esc-? expand all choices
```

Completion Commands

```
<tab> general text completion
esc-? expand all choices
esc-/ filename completion
ctrl-x list filename possibilities
esc~ username completion
ctrl-x ~ list username possibilities
esc-$ attempt variable completion
ctrl-x $ list possible variables
esc-@ attempt hostname completion
ctrl-x @ list hostname possibilities
esc-! attempt command completion
ctrl-x ! list possible commands
esc-<tab> attempt completion from hist
```

4 Environment

Environment Files

Several files control shell settings:

```
/etc/profile system settings
~/.bash_profile user settings, read @ login
~/.bash_login synonym for ibid
~/.profile synonym for ibid
~/.bashrc read @ subshell init
~/.bash_logout read @ shell logout
```

Given the difference of when they are read, it is considered best practice to minimize the contents of .bash_profile to commands that write to console; instead, putting most definitions / aliases / etc into .bashrc

Aliases

```
alias name=command # alias syntax
```

Inspiration:

```
alias cdprj='cd ~/Projects/' # alias syntax
alias ls='ls -l' # recursion is ok!
```

Options

Options for **set**; set/unset like:
set -o <opt>; set +o <opt>

allexport	noglob (f)	monitor	nounset
Braceexp'nd	Histexp'nd	noexec	verbose
notify (b)	history	Physical	vi
noClobber	hashall	privileged	xtrace
errexit	ignoreeof	posix	-
emacs	keyword	onecmd (t)	

Options for **shopt**; set/unset like:
shopt -s<arg>; shopt -u<arg>

cdable_vars	dotglob	histverify	nullglob
cdspell	execfail	hostc'mplete	pr'mptvars
checkhash	exp'd_aliases	int._c'mnts	shift_vrb'se
ch'ckw'nsiz	histappend	lithist	sourcepath
cmdhist		mailwarn	

Environment Variables

export promotes a simple variable into an environment variable, to be inherited by all subshells.

*	FIGIGNORE	LC_COLL'G	PS2
@	GL'BLIGN'R	LC_MSGS	PS3
#	GROUPS	LINENO	PS4
~	IFS	MACHTYPE	PPID
?	HISTCMD	MAIL	PWD
~	HISTCTL	MAILCH'CK	RANDOM
\$	HISTFILE	MAILPATH	REPLY
!	HISTSIZE	OLDPWD	SECONDS
0	HOME	OPTARG	SHELL
BASH	HOSTFILE	OPTRR	SHELLOPTS
BASH_ENV	HOSTNAME	OPTIND	SHVL
BASH_VS'N	HOSTTYPE	OSTYPE	TIMEF'MT
CDPATH	IGNOREEOF	PATH	TMOUT
DIRSTACK	INPUTRC	PIPESTAT	UID
EUID	LANG	P'MPT_C'MD	auto_resume
FCEDIT	LC_ALL	PS1	histchars

Directory Search Path

CDPATH gives shell a list of places to look for the location of the argument to **cd**, eg:

CDPATH=~/Projects/
Alternatively, run **shopt -o cdable_vars** and then define “cdable” aliases a la:
cs=~/Projects/cheatsheets/ # set normal var
cd cs # Δs dir accordingly

Prompt String

Prompt can be customized to indicate current directory, date, shell name, and other information. ∃ 4 different prompt variables: PS1, PS2, PS3, PS4. For example (more here), set PS1 to a string like:

```
\u@h \w # user, host, & WD
!!$ str|\ $?> # cmd #, content of str
\e[0;34m\u@h \w> \e[m # light blue
['myfunc']> # run shell fn
[\$(script.sh)]> # run shell script
```

5 Types

Similarly-named commands are first taken to be aliases, then keywords, functions, “built-ins”, and finally scripts, in that order. Override this precedence with: **builtin** or **command**, or by disabling higher-precedent commands with **enable -n**. Use **declare [afFrx]** to set a type explicitly, otherwise type string is assumed. Use **type [afFtP]** to ascertain typing information about a variable.

Variables

Subshells inherit environment variables only; all others remain local to invoking shell. Variables are assumed global unless declared otherwise.

```
myvar="12345" # basic assignment
```

```
source myvar      # promotn to envmt
local mylocvar    # local to a func
echo $myvar       # regurgitate
echo "$myvar"     # more correct!
echo "${myvar}"   # the above does this
```

Functions

```
function myfunc1  # syntax 1
{
  ...            # statements
}                #
```

```
myfunc ( )       # syntax 2
declare -f        # list all funcs
```

Invoke a function like a command, passing args right afterward. When doing so, positional params (\$1, ...) will reflect args passed to the function.

Strings

“String expansion” is the dereferencing of a variable (assumed a string), per **echo \$<var>** syntax above. “String operators” afford handling of strings, including default values and error messages:

```
- ${<var>:-<word>} ... <var> ? <var> : <word>
- ${<var>:=<word>} ... above, plus set var=word
- ${<var>:?<msg>} ... <var> ? <var> : abort
- ${<var>:+<word>} ... <var> ? <word> : NULL
- ${<var>:<offset>} ... substring expansion
- ${<var>:<offset>:<len>} ... ibid
```

A class of string operators use “pattern matching”, which allows for quick (though syntactically obscure) manipulation of string contents:

```
- ${<var>#<ptrn>} ... delete shortest match
- ${<var>##<ptrn>} ... delete longest match
- ${<var>%<ptrn>} ... delete shortest match
- ${<var>%%<ptrn>} ... delete longest match
- ${<var>/<ptrn>/<str>} ... sub 1st <p> with <s>
- ${<var>/<ptrn>/<str>} ... sub all <p> with <s>
```

Common pattern-matching idioms:

```
$(path##*/ )      # only filename
$(path#*/ )       # strip 1st dir
$(path)           # full path & file
$(path%.* )       # strip last extension
$(path%.* )       # strip all .* extens's
```

Output using **echo** or **printf** (advanced), eg:
echo -en "hello\t world" # note: echo optsn
printf "|%10s|\n" hello # works like C versn

Numerics

“Numeric expansion” is indicated by **\$((<expr>))** syntax, where <expr> allows a wide range of simple mathematical expressions.

```
$( ( 365 - $(date +%j) ) ) # wks to new year ☺
[ \ ( 2 -gt 2\ ) && \ ( 4 -le 1 \ ) ] # good
[ $( ( 3 > 2 ) && ( 4 <= 1 ) ) = 1 ] # better
(( ( 3 > 2 ) && ( 4 <= 1 ) )) # best
```

Arrays

```
names[2]=alice      # indexed assign
names=( [2]=alice [0]=bob ) # compound asgn
names=(bob " alice) # ibid
declare -a myarr    # empty array
for i in "${names[@]}" # @ → “all”
"${!names[@]}"       # print all indices
"${#names[@]}"       # array length
```

Command Substitution

\$(<command> <arg>*) # syntax

“Command substitution” expands the results of a called command into a string, eg:
\$(ls \$HOME) # contents of ~/
cd \$(DIR_STACK%%*) # what popd does

6 Flow Control

Executed commands run in a subshell; called functions block and run in the same shell. Use **return <int>** to exit immediately encapsulating function, or **exit <int>** to exit script. Loops admit the usual **break** syntax.

Conditions

Success or failure of a command, via its exit status, is sufficient to implement a condition (<cond>) below. though **test** is often used instead. Form logical combinations of <cond>s using ORs (||) and ANDs (&&), or **test**’s **-o**, **-a** flags, respectively. Negate phrases with exclamation (!):
 if [<cond>] && [<cond>] # ANDed <cond>s
 if [<cond>] -a [<cond>] # sole ANDed **test**
 if [-x "\$1" -a ! -d "\$1"] # idiom: is executable

Test Command

test evaluates an expression. The results, in the form of exit statuses, are ubiquitously used in flow-control statements, as a means of implementing a more general condition (<cond>). Sadly, an exit status of 0 is a “success”; 1 or other is a “failure”. [...] is a shorthand for **test**, and the following options control the evaluation:

```
-b is block dev  -c is char dev
-c is dir       -e exists
-f is regular   -g setgid set
-G owned by grp -k sticky bit set
-L is sym link  -n str non-null
-O owned by usr -p is pipe
-r is readable  -s is non-empty
-S is a socket  -t n n points to term
-u setuid bit   -w writeable
-x executable
```

Can also use comparison operators =, !=, <, >, <=, >=, ==, the first four of which can be used with strings or numerics; or exclusively numeric comparison operators **-lt**, **-le**, **-eq**, **-ge**, **-gt**, **-ne**, as well as +, -, *, /, %, <=, >=, \$, |, ~, !, ^, . **Warning:** use double quotes for **[-n "\$<var>"]** tests, as empty

strings otherwise still succeed!

If / Else

```
if <cond>          # <cond> is often a test
then              # idiom: append to prev line
  <stmt>*
elif <cond>        # optional as usual
  <stmt>*
else              # optional as well
  <stmt>*
fi                # requires new line
```

For

```
for <i> in <list>   # <i> used only in loop
do                # requires n.l. (or for ; do)
  <stmt>*
done              # can now use <i>
                  # requires new line
```

Eg, iterate PATH or files in . using:
IFS=: ; for dir in \$PATH; do ls -ld \$dir; done
for f in \$(ls -l); do

Newer bash versions afford a “numeric for,” which approximates traditional for loops:
for ((<init> ; <end> ; <update>)); do ...
for ((i=1 ; i<=12 ; i++)); do ...

Case

```
case <expr> in    # <expr> is a string
  <ptrn> )        # <ptrn> is another string
    <stmt>* ;;    # note double ; to end
  <ptrn> )        # as many cases as needed
    <stmt>* ;;    #
  <ptrn>|<ptrn> ) # log'ly ORed <ptrn>s
    <stmt>* ;;    #
  *)              # optional “catch-all” case
    <stmt>* ;;    #
esac              # on its own line
```

Select

A higher-level interface for implementing menus. Alternatively, can elicit input more manually using lower-level **read** invocations. Note: idiomatically, user-prompts write to STDERR.
select <sel> in <list> # options from <list>
do # on own line
 <stmt>* # can now use <sel>
done # on own line

While / Until

```
while <cond> ; do # <cond> tests exit status
  <stmt>*
done              #
                  #
until <cmd>; do   # do while <cmd> fails
  <stmt>*
done              #
```

echo “\$var” | while IFS= read -r ln ; do ... ; done

Eg, expand on previous PATH iteration:
path=\$PATH ; while [\$path] ;

do ls -ld \${path%%.*}; path=\${path#*.} ; done

Eg, process command-line args without **getopts**:
while [-n "\$(echo \$1 | grep '"')"] ;
do ... ; shift ; done

7 Command-line Args

Positional Parameters

“Positional parameters” (\$1, \$2, ...) hold passed parameters; while # holds # of params and *, @ hold all params (in a string, array, respectively). For manual parsing, **shift** pops the top of the positional parameter stack. Use **getopts** for complex parsing (eg, multiple options, not all required).

getopts

getopts <options_list> <option>
getopts assigns each successive command-line argument to <option>. <options_list> describes available options: assign a letter for each, separated by colons, with an optional first colon to override default **getopts** error msg. If an option has an argument, **getopts** will store the current one in OPTARG.
while getopts "a:b:C" opt ; do
case \$opt in
a) <stmt>
\) echo "usage"; exit 1 ;
esac ; done

eval

eval affords dynamic creation of shell commands. Eg, programmatically create a pipeline by storing each step into a string, then **eval**ing it:
eval \$convert \$file \$scale \$border > \$outfile

8 Input / Output Processing

Examples / Idioms

"\$@"> logfile > 2>&1 & # bg job; err, out to log
"\$@" | tee logfile & # ibid (synonym)

Synopsis

	pipe	>	std out
<	std in	>>	append out
>	force out	n>	force to n
<>	in & out	n<>	in, out to n
<<	“here doc”	n>	out to FD n
<n	FD in n	n>>	FD append n
n>&	dup out	n<&	dup in, FD n
n>&m	n follows m	n<&m	n follows m
&>	out & err	<&-	close std in
>&-	close s-out	n>&-	close n-out