

**NAME**

printf – format and print data

**SYNOPSIS**

**printf** *FORMAT* [*ARGUMENT*]...

**printf** *OPTION*

**DESCRIPTION**

Print *ARGUMENT*(s) according to *FORMAT*, or execute according to *OPTION*:

**--help** display this help and exit

**--version**

output version information and exit

*FORMAT* controls the output as in C printf. Interpreted sequences are:

\ " double quote

\\ backslash

\a alert (BEL)

\b backspace

\c produce no further output

\e escape

\f form feed

\n new line

\r carriage return

\t horizontal tab

\v vertical tab

\NNN byte with octal value NNN (1 to 3 digits)

\xHH byte with hexadecimal value HH (1 to 2 digits)

\uHHHH

Unicode (ISO/IEC 10646) character with hex value HHHH (4 digits)

\UHHHHHHHH

Unicode character with hex value HHHHHHHH (8 digits)

%% a single %

%b *ARGUMENT* as a string with '\ ' escapes interpreted, except that octal escapes are of the form \0 or \0NNN

%q *ARGUMENT* is printed in a format that can be reused as shell input, escaping non-printable characters with the proposed POSIX '\$' syntax.

and all C format specifications ending with one of diouxXfeEgGcs, with *ARGUMENT*s converted to proper type first. Variable widths are handled.

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

**AUTHOR**

Written by David MacKenzie.

**REPORTING BUGS**

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

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

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**SEE ALSO**

printf(3)

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