

# head(1) - Linux man page

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## Name

head - output the first part of files

## Synopsis

**head** [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

## Description

Print the first 10 lines of each FILE to standard output. With more than one FILE, precede each with a header giving the file name. With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

**-c, --bytes=[-]K**

print the first K bytes of each file; with the leading '-', print all but the last K bytes of each file

**-n, --lines=[-]K**

print the first K lines instead of the first 10; with the leading '-', print all but the last K lines of each file

**-q, --quiet, --silent**

never print headers giving file names

**-v, --verbose**

always print headers giving file names

**--help**

display this help and exit

**--version**

output version information and exit

K may have a multiplier suffix: b 512, kB 1000, K 1024, MB 1000\*1000, M 1024\*1024, GB 1000\*1000\*1000, G 1024\*1024\*1024, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y.

## Author

Written by David MacKenzie and Jim Meyering.

## Reporting Bugs

Report head bugs to [bug-coreutils@gnu.org](mailto:bug-coreutils@gnu.org)

GNU coreutils home page: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

General help using GNU software: <<http://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>>

Report head translation bugs to <<http://translationproject.org/team/>>