

POSIX Built-in Shell Variables

Variable	Meaning
#	Number of arguments given to current process.
@	Command-line arguments to current process. Inside double quotes, expands to individual arguments.
*	Command-line arguments to current process. Inside double quotes, expands to a single argument.
- (hyphen)	Options given to shell on invocation.
?	Exit status of previous command.
\$	Process ID of shell process.
0 (zero)	The name of the shell program.
!	Process ID of last background command. Use this to save process ID numbers for later use with the <i>wait</i> command.
ENV	Used only by interactive shells upon invocation; the value of \$ENV is parameter-expanded. The result should be a full pathname for a file to be read and executed at startup. This is an XSI requirement.
HOME	Home (login) directory.
IFS	Internal field separator; i.e., the list of characters that act as word separators. Normally set to space, tab, and newline.
LANG	Default name of current locale; overridden by the other LC_* variables.
LC_ALL	Name of current locale; overrides LANG and the other LC_* variables.
LC_COLLATE	Name of current locale for character collation (sorting) purposes.
LC_CTYPE	Name of current locale for character class determination during pattern matching.
LC_MESSAGES	Name of current language for output messages.
LINENO	Line number in script or function of the line that just ran.
NLSPATH	The location of message catalogs for messages in the language given by \$LC_MESSAGES (XSI).
PATH	Search path for commands.
PPID	Process ID of parent process.
PS1	Primary command prompt string. Default is "\$ ".
PS2	Prompt string for line continuations. Default is "> ".
PS4	Prompt string for execution tracing with set -x. Default is "+ ".
PWD	Current working directory.