

## SHIFT

Change the position of command line parameters in a batch file.

### Syntax

```
SHIFT [/n]
```

### Key

/n Start at the *n*th argument, where *n* may be between zero and eight.

### Examples:

Given %1=the, %2=quick, %3=brown

```
SHIFT
```

will result in %1=quick, %2=brown

A second

```
SHIFT
```

will result in %1=brown

Given %1=the, %2=quick, %3=brown, %4=fox

```
SHIFT /2
```

will result in %1=the, %2=brown, %3=fox

### Parse Command Line Arguments

```
:start
if "%1"==" " (goto :main)
:: Do whatever with token %1
Echo [%1]
:: Shift %2 into %1
SHIFT
goto :start
```

```
:main
```

```
::
```

The parameter %0 will initially refer to the path that was used to execute the batch - this could be MyBatch.cmd if in the current directory or a full path like C:\apps\myBatch.cmd

If SHIFT is used to move a text parameter into %0 then any references to %0 will refer instead to the current working directory, unless the new parameter value happens to contain a valid path.

For example:

%0\..\MyExecutable.exe will run MyExecutable from the same directory as the Batch file.

If the following parameter is passed to myBatch.cmd

```
myBatch.cmd D:\utils\
```

Then the following commands in myBatch will run MyExecutable.exe from the directory D:\utils\

```
SHIFT
```

```
%0\..\MyExecutable.exe
```

SHIFT is an [internal](#) command. If [Command Extensions](#) are disabled, the SHIFT command will not support the /n switch

*"A small key opens big doors" ~ Turkish Proverb*

### Related:

[CALL](#) - Call one batch program from another

[SET](#) - Display or edit environment variables

powershell: [param](#)( \$var1, \$var2,... )

Equivalent bash command (Linux): [shift](#) - Shift positional parameters

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