

PunyInform v6.1 quick reference

More information on last page.

Library variables

action

The current action, e.g. ##PutOn.

action_to_be

The action currently being considered, during parsing.

actor

The creature that is currently being ordered to do something – usually the player.

buffer

The array where player input is kept.

caps_mode

In a short_name routine: set to true if object is printed wth printing rule (The).

clr_bg

z5+ only: Background colour.

clr_fg

z5+ only: Foreground colour.

clr_fginput PUNY++

z5+ only: Player input colour.

clr_fgstatus

z5+ only: Status line colour.

clr_on

z5+ only: Set to true to enable colours.

consult_from

The first word number of a topic in player input.

consult_words

The number of words of a topic in player input.

deadflag

0 = game is on, 1 = player is dead, 2 = player has won,
3+ = game is over - DeathMessage() prints why.

inp1

Usually equals noun, but is 1 if noun is a number.

inp2

Usually equals second, but is 1 if second is a number.

input_action PUNY++

The original action, derived from player input.

input_direction PUNY++

The original value of selected_direction, derived from player input.

input_noun PUNY++

The original value of noun, derived from player input.

input_second PUNY++

The original value of second, derived from player input.

inventory_stage

See invent property.

inventory_style

0 = tall, 1 = wide. Can be set by game. If OPTIONAL_FLEXIBLE_INVENTORY has been defined, player can change it ("inventory tall/wide").

keep_silent

Set to true to make most group 2 actions silent.

location

The room where the player is, or thedark if it's dark.

lookmode

1 = normal, 2 = long, 3 = short. Long mode shows the room description on every visit, short never. 1 is default. Many games set it to 2 in Initialise.

meta

Is true if action is a meta action, like ##Save.

no_implicit_actions

Set this to true to disable all implicit actions.

normal_directions_enabled PUNY++

Is normally true. Set it to false to stop the library from recognizing the normal directions (N, S, UP, IN etc).

noun

The primary object of the current action, if any.

num_words

The number of words in player input.

parse

The array to keep track of the words in player input.

parser_action

In a parse_name routine, set this to ##PluralFound if a match was made and it's in plural form.

player

Points to the object that represents the player.

real_location

The room where the player is, even if it's dark.

receive_action

The action (##Insert or ##PutOn) that caused the fake action ##Receive.

run_after_routines_arg_1 PUNY++

Argument for message (See run_after_routines_msg).

run_after_routines_msg PUNY++

Action routine sets to a message# or 1, to run after-routines. 1 means "run after routines, no message". Action routine can also set run_after_routines_arg_1.

scope_modified PUNY++

If OPTIONAL_MANUAL_SCOPE has been defined, set this to true whenever (possibly) changing what's in scope.

scope_reason ~PUNY

Used in InScope routine (but not in add_to_scope).

scope_stage

Used in scope token routines referred to in the grammar.

score

The current score.

second

The secondary object of the current action, if any.

selected_direction PUNY++

The direction matched in input, if any, e.g. n_to.

ship_directions_enabled PUNY++

If OPTIONAL_SHIP_DIRECTIONS is defined, set this to true/false to turn ship directions, e.g. 'aft', on/off.

task_done

A byte array to note which tasks have been completed. Achieved updates this. Requires TASKS_PROVIDED.

task_scores

A byte array with scores for tasks. Requires TASKS_PROVIDED.

`the_time`

The current time, in minutes past midnight. Only used for games that show time on the statusline.

`turns`

The game's turn counter.

`update_moved PUNY++`

Set this to `true` when using `move [object] to player;` (sets `moved` attribute & updates score).

`verb_word`

The verb in the current input, e.g. 'take'.

`wn`

Word number in player input where `NextWord()` will read, from 1 to (`num_words` - 1).

Library constants

The Inform language defines `true` (1), `false` (0) and `nothing` (0). The library also defines `NULL` (-1), which is used for an action, property or pronoun which currently doesn't have a value. `DIRECTION_COUNT` holds the number of directions recognized: Normally 8, but 12 if `OPTIONAL_FULL_DIRECTIONS` is defined.

`PUNYINFORM_MAJOR_VERSION`,
`PUNYINFORM_MINOR_VERSION`,
`PUNYINFORM_PATCH_VERSION` and
`PUNYINFORM_VERSION_SUFFIX` hold the library version.

There are constants for colours: `CLR_BLACK`, `CLR_RED`, `CLR_GREEN`, `CLR_YELLOW`, `CLR_BLUE`, `CLR_MAGENTA`, `CLR_CYAN`, `CLR_WHITE`, `CLR_DEFAULT`, `CLR_CURRENT`, `CLR_OZMOO_ORANGE`, `CLR_OZMOO_BROWN`, `CLR_OZMOO_LIGHT_RED`, `CLR_OZMOO_DARK_GREY`, `CLR_OZMOO_MEDIUM_GREY`, `CLR_OZMOO_LIGHT_GREEN`, `CLR_OZMOO_LIGHT_BLUE`, `CLR_OZMOO_LIGHT_GREY`.

The global `scope_reason` schould always have one of

the values `PARSING_REASON`, `EACH_TURN_REASON`, `REACT_BEFORE_REASON`, `REACT_AFTER_REASON`, `LOOPOVERSCOPE_REASON`, `TESTSCOPE_REASON`.

User-defined constants

`AMUSING_PROVIDED`

Offer the player to see amusing things to try after they complete the game. See `Amusing` entry point routine.

`CUSTOM_PLAYER_OBJECT = object PUNY++`

The player object to use instead of `selfobj`.

`DEATH_MENTION_UNDO ~PUNY`

Print 'undo' option even when player wins.

`DEBUG`

Use debug mode, with debug verbs and more information when something goes wrong.

`DEFAULT_CAPACITY = number PUNY++`

The number of objects that can be held by a container or supporter that doesn't provide a value for `capacity`.

`Headline = "^\text{}^"`

Information about the game - genre, author, credits etc. Start with "^", end with "^^", separate sections with "^".

`INITIAL_LOCATION_VALUE = object PUNY++`

The location in which the player starts. A game must either define this, or set `location` in `Initialise`.

`MAX_CARRIED = number`

Set the capacity of the player object (default 32).

`MAX_FLOATING_OBJECTS = number PUNY++`

The maximum number of objects that can have the `found_in` property (default 32).

`MAX_SCOPE = number PUNY++`

How many objects can be in scope at once (default 50).

`MAX_SCORE = number`

The maximum score the player can get.

`MAX_TIMERS = number`

The maximum number of objects which can have an active timer or daemon at the same time (default 32).

`NO_PLACES`

Don't define the verbs 'objects' and 'places'.

`NO_SCORE = number PUNY++`

Don't include a scoring mechanism. In z3 games, show the value of this constant as the score on the statusline.

`NUMBER_TASKS = number`

The number of scoring tasks (default 1). See `TASKS_PROVIDED`.

`OBJECT_SCORE = number`

The score for objects with `scored` attribute the player picks up (default 4). Requires `OPTIONAL_SCORED`.

`OPTIONAL_ALLOW_WRITTEN_NUMBERS PUNY++`

Allow the player to use 'one' .. 'twenty' as numbers.

`OPTIONAL_EXTENDED_METAVERBS PUNY++`

Enable a set of nice-to-have metaverbs. See "Group 1 actions" in this document.

`OPTIONAL_EXTENDED_VERBSET PUNY++`

Enable a set of nice-to-have verbs. See "Group 2 actions" and "Group 3 actions" in this document.

`OPTIONAL_FULL_DIRECTIONS PUNY++`

Enable directions NE, NW, SE, SW.

`OPTIONAL_FLEXIBLE_INVENTORY PUNY++`

Allow player to change inventory style ("i tall/wide")

`OPTIONAL_FULL_SCORE PUNY++`

Enable the 'fullscore' verb, and optionally support for tasks (See `TASKS_PROVIDED`).

`OPTIONAL_GUESS_KEY PUNY++`

Make the parser pick the right key for lock/unlock, if `OPTIONAL_GUESS_MISSING_NOUN` is defined.

`OPTIONAL_GUESS_MISSING_NOUN PUNY++`

Make the parser fill in missing parts in player input.

`OPTIONAL_LANGUAGE_NUMBER PUNY++`

Define the `LanguageNumber(n)` routine.

`OPTIONAL_LIST_TOGETHER PUNY++`

Support the `list_together` property.

`OPTIONAL_MANUAL_REACTIVE PUNY++`

The author takes responsibility for setting the `reactive` attribute on the right objects.

OPTIONAL_MANUAL_SCOPE PUNY++

The author takes responsibility for setting `scope_modified = true` when doing something in code which may affect what's in scope.

OPTIONAL_MANUAL_SCOPE_BOOST PUNY++

Avoid running `react_before`, `react_after` and `each_turn` steps whenever possible, for performance.

OPTIONAL_NO_DARKNESS PUNY++

Rooms are always lit. Don't define the `light` attribute.

OPTIONAL_NON_FLASHING_STATUSLINE PUNY++

Use a faster (and prettier?) but less compatible statusline for z5+ games.

OPTIONAL_ORDERED_TIMERS PUNY++

Timers/daemons are executed in order of their value for property `timer_order`.

OPTIONAL_PRINT_SCENERY_CONTENTS PUNY++

Make 'look' describe what's in/on containers/supporters which have the `scenery` attribute.

OPTIONAL_PROVIDE_UNDO PUNY++

Enable the 'undo' verb (z5 & z8 only!)

OPTIONAL_REACTIVE_PARSE_NAME PUNY++

Use the `reactive` attribute for all objects which have the `parse_name` property.

OPTIONAL_SCORED PUNY++

Enable support for the `scored` attribute.

OPTIONAL_SIMPLE_DOORS PUNY++

Lets you define property `door_dir` as an array and skip property `door_to` for simple two-way doors.

OPTIONAL_SHIP_DIRECTIONS PUNY++

Enable support for 'fore', 'aft' etc. Also see variable `ship_directions_enabled`.

OPTIONAL_SL_NO_MOVES PUNY++

Don't show moves on statusline (z5 & z8 only!).

OPTIONAL_SL_NO_SCORE PUNY++

Don't show score on statusline (z5 & z8 only!).

ROOM_SCORE = number

The score for each room with the `scored` attribute the player visits (default 5). Requires `OPTIONAL_SCORED`.

RUNTIME_ERRORS = number PUNY++

What to do when a runtime error occurs: 2 = Print error message, 1 = Print error code, 0 = Like 1 but also reduce checks for errors (default: 2 if DEBUG is defined, 1 if not)

SACK_OBJECT = object

The object the player will automatically try to put belongings into when the player's `capacity` has been reached.

STATUSLINE_SCORE PUNY++

Show score and moves, not time on the statusline.

STATUSLINE_TIME PUNY++

Show time, not score on the statusline.

Story = "text"

Mandatory: The name of the game.

TASKS_PROVIDED

Use tasks for scoring. Also define `NUMBER_TASKS`, byte array `task_scores` and entry point routine `PrintTaskName`.

Library routines

Achieved (number)

Complete task `number`. Requires `TASKS_PROVIDED`.

Banner ()

Print the game name, serial# etc. To skip this at game start, return 2 from `Initialise` and call `Banner` later.

ChangeFgColour (colour) PUNY++

Change the foreground colour, if game is in z5+ format and colour has been enabled.

ChooseObjectsFinal_Discard (number) PUNY++

Call from entry point routine `ChooseObjectsFinal` to remove option `number` (0 or higher).

ChooseObjectsFinal_Pick (number) PUNY++

Call from entry point routine `ChooseObjectsFinal` to pick option `number` (0 or higher).

ClearScreen (window) ~PUNY

z5+ only. Call with argument `WIN_MAIN`, `WIN_STATUS` or `WIN_ALL` to set colours (if `clr_on` is true) and clear main and/or status window.

CommonAncestor (object1, object2)

Return the nearest object that contains both `object1` and `object2` on some level, or false.

DoorDir (object) PUNY++

Returns the direction in which the door object lies.

DoorTo (object) PUNY++

Returns the room which the door object leads to, or 1 if `object.door_to` is a routine and it returned 1, meaning it printed a message why the player can't enter.

DrawStatusLine (newlines) ~PUNY

z5+ only. Print the statusline. If `newlines` is true, it must instead print as many newlines as the statusline height

FastSpaces (number) PUNY++

Print `number` spaces in an efficient manner.

ImplicitDisrobeIfWorn (object) PUNY++

Take off object if worn. Return false for success.

ImplicitGrabIfNotHeld (object) PUNY++

Take object if not held. Return false for success.

IndirectlyContains (object1, object2)

Return true if `object1` holds `object2`, on some level.

LanguageNumber (number)

Print `number` using words. Requires `OPTIONAL_LANGUAGE_NUMBER`.

LoopOverScope (routine, actor)

Call routine `once` for each object in scope for `actor` (default: `player`), passing the object as a parameter.

MoveFloatingObjects ()

Check which objects with `found_in` should be present.

NextWord ()

Read word at position `wn` in player input and increment `wn`. Return the word, or false if empty or unrecognized.

NextWordStopped ()

Like `NextWord()` except it returns -1 if `wn` points beyond the end of player input.

NumberWord (numword)	
If numword is a word, e.g. 'six', representing a number 1-20, return the number. If not, return false.	
Requires OPTIONAL_ALLOW_WRITTEN_NUMBERS.	
NumberWords()	
Return the number of words in player input.	
ObjectCapacity (object) PUNY++	
Return the object's value for the capacity property, defaulting to DEFAULT_CAPACITY or 100 if not defined.	
ObjectIsUntouchable (object, flag)	
Return true if player can't touch object. If so, and flag is false or unspecified, also print a message.	
OzmooColoursAvailable() PUNY++	
Returns true if the game is being played on Z-code interpreter Ozmoo, with the 8 extra colours available.	
ParseToken (type, data)	
Use in general parsing routines. See DM4 index for examples.	
PlaceInScope (object)	
Use in user-supplied scope routines to put object in scope. Ignores add_to_scope property and children.	
PlayerTo (object, flag)	
Move player to object, which must be a room or an enterable object. If flag is 0 or omitted, print a long room description. If flag is 1, keep quiet. If flag is 2, print a room description based on the lookmode value.	
PrintContents (text, object, style) PUNY++	
Recursively list contents of object. Hide items that have concealed or scenery, unless action is ##Inv. Print or run text (unless 0) before first item. If style has WORKFLAG_BIT set, only print objects which have the workflag attribute. If it has ISARE_BIT set, print "is" or "are" before list. If it has NEWLINE_BIT set, print each object on a new line. Return true if any objects were listed. Call with text==1 to not print anything but return 0 if object contains no printable objects, 1 if contents can be prefixed with "is", 2 for "are".	
PrintContentsFromR (text, object) PUNY++	
Like PrintContents, but list object and its siblings + contents, retaining current style and indentation.	
PrintMsg (msg, arg1, arg2) PUNY++	
Print library message msg . Some messages need an argument or two, use arg1 and arg2 for this.	
PrintOrRun (object, property, flag)	
If object.property holds a routine or list of routines, run them using RunRoutines(object, property). If it holds a string, print it and then a newline. If flag is true, skip the newline.	
PronounNotice (object)	
Make a pronoun ('it', 'her' etc) refer to object.	
RunRoutines (object, property, switch)	
If object.property holds a routine or list of routines, run each routine until one of them returns a non-zero value. Return the return value of the last routine run. If switch has a non-zero value, the routines can have switch-clauses to match this value, otherwise they can have switch-clauses to match action.	
ScopeWithin (object)	
Use in user-supplied scope routines. Put all items which are in object into scope, also recursively searching supporters, transparent objects and open containers, and check the add_to_scope property of all objects added.	
SetTime (number, step)	
Sets the time to number minutes after midnight. If step is a positive number, one turn takes step minutes. Otherwise, there are -step turns to a minute.	
TestScope (object, actor)	
Return true if object is in scope for actor (defaults to player).	
TryNumber (wordnum)	
Try to parse word wordnum in player input as a number. If successful, return the number (0-10000, higher values are returned as 10000). If it's not a valid number, return -1000. If OPTIONAL_ALLOW_WRITTEN_NUMBERS is defined, also parse number words ('one' .. 'twenty').	
WordAddress (wordnum)	
Return the address in memory where the characters for word wordnum in player input are stored.	

WordLength (wordnum)	
Return the number of characters in word wordnum in player input.	
WordValue (wordnum)	
Return the dictionary word that word wordnum in player input matches, or 0 if no match was found.	
YesOrNo()	
Wait for the player to type something. Return true if they typed yes, false if they typed no, or ask again.	

Printing rules

A printing rule is used to print something based on one argument, typically an object. Example of use:
print "The pump is ", (OnOff) Pump, ".^";

CObjIs **PUNY++**

Prints "The (object)", and "is" or "are" (see IsOrAre).

CTheyreorIts **PUNY++**

Prints "It's" or "They're" or "He's" etc.

CTheyreorThats

Prints "That's" or "They're" or "He's" etc.

IsOrAre

Prints "is" or "are", based on pluralname and if the object is the player object.

ItorThem

Prints "it", "them", "her" etc.

ObjIs **PUNY++**

Prints "the (object)", and "is" or "are" (see IsOrAre).

OnOff **PUNY++**

Prints "on" or "off", based on on.

SingularS **PUNY++**

Prints "s" if the object doesn't have pluralname.

ThatorThose

Prints "that" or "those" based on pluralname.

Entry point routines

These routines, if defined by the game author, are run under the circumstances stated for each routine.

`AfterLife()`

When player has died. Can be used to revive player.

`AfterPrompt()`

After the input prompt has been printed.

`Amusing()`

When the player has won. Use it to print fun facts about the game. Requires `AMUSING_PROVIDED`.

`BeforeParsing()`

After player input, before parsing starts.

`ChooseObjects(obj, code)`

If `code` is 2, return a score 0-9 for how good a fit `obj` is for action `action_to_be`. Code 0 and 1 means player has typed ALL and parser means to exclude (0) or include (1) the object. Return 0 to don't interfere, 1 to force inclusion, 2 to force exclusion.

`ChooseObjectsFinal(array, length)` **PUNY++**

Called just before having to ask the player which object they mean. `array` holds the address of a word array holding object numbers, `length` holds the number of objects. Use `ChooseObjectsFinal_Pick` and/or `ChooseObjectsFinal_Discard` to either pick an object or discard options. You may rearrange the array.

`DarkToDark()`

When player moves from one dark location to another.

`DeathMessage()`

When game ends and `deadflag` is set to 3 or higher. Should print a few words to say why the game ended.

`DebugIsARoom(obj, verdict)` **PUNY++**

Player has typed GOTO or ROOMS. Verdict = 1 or 0 says if library thinks `obj` is a room or not. Return 0 to accept, 1 to say it's a room, 2 to say it's not.

`DebugParseNameObject(object)` **PUNY++**

When the parser checks for matching objects for a debug verb like 'purloin'. Return true if `object` has a `parse_name` routine.

`DisallowTakeAnimate()` **PUNY++**

When the player tries to take noun, which has `animate`. Return `false` to allow this, or `true` to disallow it.

`GamePostRoutine()`

When after routines have been run.

`GamePreRoutine()`

Before before routines have been run.

`InScope(actor)`

When working out the scope for the actor. Call `ScopeWithin` and `PlaceInScope` to add objects to scope. Return true if no other objects should be in scope.

`Initialise ~PUNY`

Mandatory: A (possibly empty) routine which is called when the game starts. May print an introduction. May return 2 to skip the game banner. Must set `location`, unless `INITIAL_LOCATION_VALUE` is defined.

`LibraryMessages(number, arg1, arg2)` **PUNY++**

When a library message is about to be printed. Use it to print your own complex library messages.

`LookRoutine`

After the room and everything in it has been described.

`NewRoom`

When the player has entered a new room, before the room is described.

`ParseNoun(object)` **~PUNY**

When checking if input matches `object`, before `parse_name` and `name` properties are checked. Can advance `wn` and return -1 to consume words (`parse_name + name` will also be checked), just return -1 to not interfere, or return how many words matched.

`ParseNumber(buffer, length)`

When the parser needs to check if the input word that starts at `buffer` and is `length` bytes long, is a number. Return the number, or `false` if no number was found.

`PrintRank()`

When the scoring message is printed. Prints the final part, typically giving the player a rank based on `score`.

`PrintTaskName(n)`

When listing a completed task. Print name of task `n`.

`PrintVerb(verb)`

When the parser needs to print a verb. Typically needed for long verbs. Return true if the routine printed the verb.

`TimePasses()`

After a game turn has ended, in which `turns` increased.

`UnknownVerb(word)`

When the parser doesn't recognize the verb. Return a dictionary word to use as the verb instead, or `false`.

Library objects

`Directions` **PUNY++**

Represents all directions. The `selected_direction` variable holds the matched direction (e.g. `n_to`) or 0.

`selfobj`

The default player object. It's better to use the `player` variable which normally refers to this.

`thedark`

Fake room. When `real_location` is `dark`, `location` points here. The player is never moved to `thedark`.

Group 1 actions

Group 1 actions are metaverbs that control gameplay, and debug verbs. They don't run before or after routines.

Again, FullScore, LookModeLong, LookModeNormal, LookModeShort, NotifyOff, NotifyOn, Oops, OopsCorrection, Restart, Restore, Save, Score, Version, Quit

OPTIONAL_EXTENDED_METAVERBS adds:

CommandsOff, CommandsOn, CommandsRead, Objects, Places, ScriptOff, ScriptOn, Verify

DEBUG adds: ActionsOff, ActionsOn, Debug, Forest, GoNear, Goto, Pronouns, Purloin, RandomSeed, Rooms, RoutinesOff, RoutinesOn, Scope, TimersOff, TimersOn, Tree

Group 2 actions

These actions change something in the game world or print information about it. They run before and after routines.

Close	"CLOSE (noun)"
Disrobe	"TAKE OFF (noun)"
Drop	"DROP (noun)"
Eat	"EAT (noun)"
Enter	"ENTER (noun)"
Examine	"EXAMINE (noun)"
Exit	"EXIT (noun)"
GetOff	"GET OFF (noun)"
Go	"GO (direction)"
Insert	"INSERT (noun) INTO (second)"
Inv	"INVENTORY"
Lock	"LOCK (noun) with (second)"
Look	"LOOK"
Open	"OPEN (noun)"
PutOn	"PUT (noun) ON (second)"
Remove	"REMOVE (noun) FROM (second)"
Search	"SEARCH (noun)"
SwitchOff	"SWITCH OFF (noun)"

SwitchOn	"SWITCH ON (noun)"
Take	"TAKE (noun)"
Transfer	"TRANSFER (noun) TO (second)"
Unlock	"UNLOCK (noun) WITH (second)"
Wait	"WAIT"
Wear	"WEAR (noun)"

OPTIONAL_EXTENDED_VERBSET adds:

Empty	"EMPTY (noun)"
EmptyT	"EMPTY (noun) INTO (second)"
GoIn	"INSIDE"

ThrowAt	"THROW (noun) AT (second)"
Tie	"TIE (noun) TO (second)"
Touch	"TOUCH (noun)"
Turn	"TURN (noun)"

OPTIONAL_EXTENDED_VERBSET adds:

Blow	"BLOW (noun)"
Mild	"DARN"
Burn	"BURN (noun)"
Buy	"BUY (noun)"
Kiss	"KISS (noun)"
No	"NO"
Set	"SET (noun)"
SetTo	"SET (noun) TO (special)"
Strong	"SHIT"
Sing	"SING"
Sleep	"SLEEP"
Sorry	"SORRY"
Squeeze	"SQUEEZE (noun)"
Swim	"SWIM"
Swing	"SWING (noun)"
Taste	"TASTE (noun)"
Think	"THINK"
Transfer	"TRANSFER (noun) TO (second)"
Wake	"WAKE UP"
WakeOther	"WAKE UP (noun)"
Wave	"WAVE"
Yes	"YES"

Group 3 actions

These actions normally just print a standard message. They run before routines but not after routines.

Answer	"ANSWER (topic) TO (second)"
Ask	"ASK (noun) ABOUT (topic)"
AskFor	"ASK (noun) FOR (second)"
AskTo	"ASK (noun) TO (topic)"
Attack	"ATTACK (noun)"
Climb	"CLIMB (noun)"
Consult	"READ ABOUT (topic) IN (noun)"
Cut	"CUT (noun)"
Dig	"DIG (noun)"
Drink	"DRINK (noun)"
Fill	"FILL (noun)"
Give	"GIVE (noun) to (second)"
Jump	"JUMP"
JumpOver	"JUMP OVER (noun)"
Listen	"LISTEN TO (noun)"
Pull	"PULL (noun)"
Push	"PUSH (noun)"
PushDir	"PUSH (noun) (direction)"
Rub	"RUB (noun)"
Shout	"SHOUT (topic)"
ShoutAt	"SHOUT (topic) AT (second)"
Show	"SHOW (noun) (second)"
Smell	"SMELL (noun)"
Tell	"TELL (noun) ABOUT (topic)"

Fake actions

These actions are not referred to anywhere in the grammar, and they don't have action routines, e.g. the fake action Going has no action routine GoingSub.

Going	Sent to the before routine for the room that the player is about to enter.
LetGo	Sent to the container/supporter from which the player takes something.
NotUnderstood	Sent to creature's orders when player issued an incomprehensible order to it.

Order	Sent to creature's life when player issued an order to it, and <code>orders</code> didn't handle it.	enterable [OBJ] Can be entered. Must have container or supporter. female [OBJ] Can be referred to as she/her. Must have animate. general [OBJ] [ROOM] To be used by the game author for whatever they like. light [OBJ] [ROOM] Provides light. For room and container, lights up what's inside as well. Note: This attribute is not defined if <code>OPTIONAL_NO_DARKNESS</code> is defined. lockable [OBJ] Can be locked and unlocked, using the object specified by <code>with_key</code> property. locked [OBJ] Can't be opened. moved [OBJ] Is or has been held directly by the player. neuter [OBJ] Can be referred to as "it" (Mainly used for animate objects, as this is default behaviour for non-animates). on [OBJ] Is currently switched on. See <code>switchable</code> attribute. open [OBJ] For doors and containers: Is currently open. openable [OBJ] For doors and containers: Can be opened and closed. pluralname [OBJ] Can be referred to as they/them. proper [OBJ] Has a name which should never be preceded by an article, like "John". reactive [OBJ] [ROOM] PUNY++ The object provides at least one of <code>add_to_scope</code> , <code>each_turn</code> , <code>react_before</code> , <code>react_after</code> (+ <code>parse_name</code> if <code>OPTIONAL_REACTIVE_PARSE_NAME</code> is defined). Note: unless <code>OPTIONAL_MANUAL_REACTIVE</code> is defined, the <code>reactive</code> attribute is set automatically. scenery [OBJ] Can't be taken, is not mentioned in room descriptions.	scored [OBJ] [ROOM] For an object: awards <code>OBJECT_SCORE</code> points when taken for the first time. For a room: awards <code>ROOM_SCORE</code> points when visited for the first time. Note: Only defined if <code>OPTIONAL_SCORED</code> is defined and <code>NO_SCORE</code> is not. static [OBJ] Can't be taken. supporter [OBJ] Is a supporter, meaning things can be placed on top of it. Can't also have container. Can have enterable. switchable [OBJ] Can be switched on and off. The <code>on</code> attribute tells its current state. talkable [OBJ] Can be talked to, even though it's not animate. transparent [OBJ] For a container: The contents are visible even if the container is closed. For an animate object: Held objects are visible to others. For other objects: Objects that are part of this objects (i.e. are <i>inside</i> this object) are visible. visited [ROOM] The player has seen this room. workflag [OBJ] [ROOM] Temporary internal flag. Can be used by game code too. worn [OBJ] For object that has <code>clothing</code> : Is currently being worn.
PluralFound	A <code>parse_name</code> routine can set <code>parser_action</code> to this value when a match is found and it's in plural.		
Receive	Sent to the object the player tries to place something in/on. <code>receive_action</code> holds the original action.		
ThrownAt	Sent by action <code>ThrowAt</code> to the object the player tries to throw something at.		

Object attributes (flags)

An attribute is a flag which can be on or off.

[OBJ] means this is used for regular objects.

[ROOM] means this is used for rooms.

`absent` [OBJ]

For object with `found_in`: Removed from game for now.

`animate` [OBJ]

Is a living thing, can be talked to etc.

`clothing` [OBJ]

Can be worn.

`concealed` [OBJ]

Is visible but not easy to spot, like a secret door. Can be interacted with but is not printed in room description.

`container` [OBJ]

Objects can be put in it and removed from it, if it's open. Can't also have `supporter`. Can have `enterable`.

`door` [OBJ]

Is a portal between rooms. Use properties `door_to`, `door_dir` and, unless it's a one-way door, `found_in`.

`edible` [OBJ]

Can be eaten.

Object properties

A property is a 16-bit value or a list of values.

[OBJ] means this is used for regular objects.

[ROOM] means this is used for rooms.

(+) means "additive" - if an object which defines the property inherits from a class which also defines the property, it gets both values.

add_to_scope [OBJ]

A list of objects that should be added to scope when this object is in scope, or a routine which puts objects in scope using ScopeWithin and PlaceInScope.

after [OBJ] [ROOM] (+)

For an object: Receives every action and fake action for which this is the noun.
For a room: Receives every action which occurs here. The property value is a routine, which usually has sections like switch-clauses, each listing one or more actions, a colon and the code to run. There can be a default clause which runs if nothing else was matched. There can also be code before the first clause, which will run regardless of action. The routine should return false to continue, telling the player what has happened, or true to stop processing the action and produce no further output.

article [OBJ] ~PUNY

A string or a routine to print the indefinite article for the object name. The default article is "some" for objects that have pluralname, nothing for objects that have proper, and "a" for all others.

before [OBJ] [ROOM] (+)

Like after, but is run before the action happens.
Returning true stops the default action from happening at all.

cant_go [ROOM]

A string or a routine to print a message, when the player tries to go in a direction where there's no exit.

capacity [OBJ] ~PUNY

The maximum number of items that can be in this container, on this supporter or held by this actor. To read the capacity of an object, taking the default capacity into

consideration, you must call ObjectCapacity(object).

d_to [ROOM]

Holds a possible exit. The value can be any of:

- * false – not an exit
- * a room where the exits leads
- * a door object – the exit leads through this door
- * a string saying why the player can't go there
- * a routine which either returns false, a room, a door object, or prints its own message and returns true.

daemon [OBJ] [ROOM]

A routine that is executed every turn once it is started. Use StartDaemon and StopDaemon to start/stop it.

describe [OBJ] (+) ~PUNY

A string or a routine to print a paragraph of text for an object in a room description. If it's a string or it's a routine which returns true, the object won't be further described. Not supported for rooms as in DM4. Note: Start and end the description with a newline ("^").

description [OBJ] [ROOM]

For an object: A string or a routine to print the text the player should get when examining the object.

For a room: A string or a routine to print the room description.

door_dir [OBJ] ~PUNY

For a door: A direction (e.g. n_to) or a routine returning a direction. This says in which direction the door lies in location. If OPTIONAL_SIMPLE_DOORS is defined and found_in holds a list with two rooms, door_dir can be a list of two directions.

door_to [OBJ] ~PUNY

For a door: A room or a routine returning a room. This says where the door leads, when the player is in location. If OPTIONAL_SIMPLE_DOORS is defined and found_in holds a list with two rooms, door_to can be omitted.

e_to [ROOM]

An exit property. See d_to.

each_turn [OBJ] [ROOM] (+)

A routine which is executed every turn when the object is in scope.

found_in [OBJ]

A list of rooms where the object is present, or a routine which returns true if the object is present in location. If the object has absent, it's not present anywhere.

grammar [OBJ]

For animate or talkable objects: Called when object is spoken to. Can advance verb_wordnum. Return true if routine has parsed all input and set up action, noun and second. Return 'verb' to use this verb's grammar instead, or '-verb' to use this verb's grammar but fall back to the verb in player input if parsing fails. Return false to parse as usual.

in_to [ROOM]

An exit property. See d_to.

initial [OBJ] [ROOM]

For an object: A string or a routine to describe the object before it's been picked up. Note: For doors/containers and switchable objects, use when_open + when_closed and when_on + when_off respectively.

For a room: A string or a routine to print a text when the player enters the room.

inside_description [OBJ]

For an enterable object: A string or a routine that will printed/run when the player is in/on the object.

invent [OBJ]

A routine to print the object in a list (typically in player inventory or a room description). First the routine is called before the object name has been printed, with inventory_stage set to 1. Then it's called again when the object name has been printed but no additional information (e.g. "(providing light)"), with inventory_stage set to 2.

For both calls, the routine should return false to continue or true to stop all further output.

life [OBJ] (+)

For animate objects: Works like a before routine, but receives only person-to-person actions (Answer, Ask, Attack, Give, Kiss, Order, Show, Tell, ThrowAt, WakeOther). Can be a string instead of a routine.

`list_together [OBJ] ~PUNY`

Objects that have the same value are listed together in object listings. Set to a low number to print them adjacent to each other, a string to print them as a group, or (advanced) a routine to handle the printing yourself. Can't handle identical objects. Requires `OPTIONAL_LIST_TOGETHER`.

`n_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`.

`name [OBJ] [ROOM]`

A list of dictionary words. For an object, these are the words that can be used to refer to the object. For a room, these are words which should yield a reply like "You don't need to refer to that.". For an object, but not a room, the `name` property can be overridden by the `parse_name` property.

`ne_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`. Requires `OPTIONAL_FULL_DIRECTIONS` to work.

`nw_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`. Requires `OPTIONAL_FULL_DIRECTIONS` to work.

`orders [OBJ]`

For animate or talkable objects: A routine to carry out the player's orders or decline to do so. The routine should either return `false`, or print a message and return `true` to stop further processing. The player object's `orders` routine is called first, and then the addressed object's `orders` routine is called.

`out_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`.

`parse_name [OBJ]`

A routine to parse player input and decide if it matches this object. The routine calls `NextWord()` and/or `NextWordStopped()` to read words and returns the number of words that match, 0 for no match or -1 to say it chooses not to decide (i.e. the `name` property will be consulted, if provided).

`react_after [OBJ]`

Like `after`, but receives all actions taking place when this object is in scope.

`react_before [OBJ]`

Like `before`, but receives all actions taking place when this object is in scope.

`s_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`.

`se_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`. Requires `OPTIONAL_FULL_DIRECTIONS` to work.

`short_name [OBJ]`

A string or routine to print the short name of the object, overriding the name provided in the object's name string. The routine should return `true` to signal that it has printed the name, or `false` to say that the library should still print the object's name string. Sometimes it's useful to print a prefix (e.g. an adjective) and return `false`.

`sw_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`. Requires `OPTIONAL_FULL_DIRECTIONS` to work.

`time_left [OBJ] [ROOM]`

For an object which has a `time_out` property: After `StartTimer(object, turns)` has been called, `time_left` holds the number of turns left before `time_out` will be called.

For other objects/rooms: Use it as a general variable.

`time_out [OBJ] [ROOM] (+)`

A routine to be called when a timer times out. Start the countdown with `StartTimer(object, turns)`.

`timer_order [OBJ] [ROOM] PUNY++`

A number that determines when this object's timer/daemon executes relative to other timers/daemons. The lower the earlier. Objects that don't provide it have the value 100. Requires `OPTIONAL_ORDERED_TIMERS`.

`u_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`.

`w_to [ROOM]`

An exit property. See `d_to`.

`when_closed [OBJ]`

For doors and containers: A string or routine to describe the object when it's closed.

`when_off [OBJ]`

For a switchable object: A string or routine to describe the object when it's off.

`when_on [OBJ]`

Like `when_off`, but for when it's on. Not used if the object has moved.

`when_open [OBJ]`

Like `when_closed`, but for when it's open. Not used if the object has moved.

`with_key [OBJ] ~PUNY`

For lockable objects: The object which works as a key, or a routine which returns `true` if the object held in second works as a key.

About this document

This is meant to be printed out and serve as a quick index to all the functionality that the PunyInform library provides. A similar document for the Inform 6 language is Inform in Four Minutes, available at <http://www.firthworks.com/roger/>

This is not meant to be a document from which to learn PunyInform, a replacement for The Inform Designer's Manual, Fourth Edition (DM4) or the PunyInform manual and tutorials. To keep it short, this document leaves out finer details. Always consult DM4 and/or the PunyInform manual to get the full picture (See Legend below).

Created and maintained by Fredrik Ramsberg.
Improvement suggestions by Garry Francis, Johan Berntsson and Nick Moffitt.

Based on InfoLib at Your Fingertips by Roger Firth.

Legend

Items marked **PUNY++** aren't described in DM4. Items marked **~PUNY** don't work exactly as described in DM4. See PunyInform manual for details on these items.