

# The exit builtin command

## Synopsis

```
exit [N]
```

## Description

The `exit` command terminates the current shell (or script).

If `N` is given, the return code to the parent process is set to `N`. If not, the returned status is the status of the most recently executed command (i.e. `$?`).

A trap on `EXIT` is executed before the shell exits, except the executed `exit` command is part of an already running trap.

## Options

There are no options.

## Exit status

Naturally, you can't ask for the exit status from within the shell that executed the `exit` command, because the shell exits.

Status	Reason
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255	invalid (e.g. non-numeric) argument - this status is returned to the parent
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## Examples

### Exit the shell and explicitly set its exit status

```
exit 3
```

# Portability considerations

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- if `N` is specified, but its value is not between 0 and 255 inclusively, the exit status is undefined.



## See also

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- The `trap` builtin command
- The exit status

## Discussion

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 [commands/builtin/exit.txt](#)  Last modified: 2013/06/22 11:48 by thebonsai

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