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How-to: Use a 'Here String'

A here string can be considered as a stripped-down form of a [here document](#). It consists of nothing more than *COMMAND* <<<*\$WORD*, where *\$WORD* is expanded and fed to the stdin of *COMMAND*.

As a simple example, consider this alternative to the echo-grep construction.

```
# Instead of:
if echo "$VAR" | grep -q txt
# if [[ $VAR = *txt* ]]
# etc.

# Try:
if grep -q "txt" <<< "$VAR"
then
    echo "$VAR contains the substring sequence \"txt\""
fi
```

Or, in combination with [read](#):

```
String="This is a string of words."

read -r -a Words <<< "$String"
# The -a option to "read"
#+ assigns the resulting values to successive members of an array.

echo "First word in String is:    ${Words[0]}"    # This
echo "Second word in String is:   ${Words[1]}"    # is
echo "Third word in String is:    ${Words[2]}"    # a
echo "Fourth word in String is:   ${Words[3]}"    # string
echo "Fifth word in String is:    ${Words[4]}"    # of
echo "Sixth word in String is:    ${Words[5]}"    # words.
echo "Seventh word in String is:  ${Words[6]}"    # (null)
                                           # Past end of $String.
```

Related linux commands

[Here Strings](#) - Advanced Bash-Scripting Guide

[BASH Syntax](#)

Windows PowerShell equivalent: [Here Strings](#)