

ln(1) — Linux manual page

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 LN(1)

User Commands

LN(1)**NAME** [top](#)

ln - make links between files

SYNOPSIS [top](#)

```
ln [OPTION]... [-T] TARGET LINK_NAME
ln [OPTION]... TARGET
ln [OPTION]... TARGET... DIRECTORY
ln [OPTION]... -t DIRECTORY TARGET...
```

DESCRIPTION [top](#)

In the 1st form, create a link to *TARGET* with the name *LINK_NAME*. In the 2nd form, create a link to *TARGET* in the current directory. In the 3rd and 4th forms, create links to each *TARGET* in *DIRECTORY*. Create hard links by default, symbolic links with **--symbolic**. By default, each destination (name of new link) should not already exist. When creating hard links, each *TARGET* must exist. Symbolic links can hold arbitrary text; if later resolved, a relative link is interpreted in relation to its parent directory.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

--backup[=*CONTROL*]
make a backup of each existing destination file

-b like **--backup** but does not accept an argument

-d, -F, --directory

allow the superuser to attempt to hard link directories
(note: will probably fail due to system restrictions, even
for the superuser)

-f, --force

remove existing destination files

-i, --interactive

prompt whether to remove destinations

-L, --logical

dereference TARGETs that are symbolic links

-n, --no-dereference

treat LINK_NAME as a normal file if it is a symbolic link
to a directory

-P, --physical

make hard links directly to symbolic links

-r, --relative

with **-s**, create links relative to link location

-s, --symbolic

make symbolic links instead of hard links

-S, --suffix=*SUFFIX*

override the usual backup suffix

-t, --target-directory=*DIRECTORY*

specify the DIRECTORY in which to create the links

-T, --no-target-directory

treat LINK_NAME as a normal file always

-v, --verbose

print name of each linked file

--help display this help and exit

--version

output version information and exit

The backup suffix is '~', unless set with **--suffix** or
SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX. The version control method may be selected
via the **--backup** option or through the VERSION_CONTROL
environment variable. Here are the values:

none, off
never make backups (even if **--backup** is given)

numbered, t
make numbered backups

existing, nil
numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise

simple, never
always make simple backups

Using **-s** ignores **-L** and **-P**. Otherwise, the last option specified controls behavior when a TARGET is a symbolic link, defaulting to **-P**.

AUTHOR [top](#)

Written by Mike Parker and David MacKenzie.

REPORTING BUGS [top](#)

GNU coreutils online help:
<<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>
Report any translation bugs to
<<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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SEE ALSO [top](#)

[link\(2\)](#), [symlink\(2\)](#)

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/ln>>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) ln invocation'

COLOPHON [top](#)

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Pages that refer to this page: [dh_link\(1\)](#), [pmlogmv\(1\)](#), [update-alternatives\(1\)](#), [link\(2\)](#), [symlink\(2\)](#), [hier\(7\)](#), [symlink\(7\)](#), [sln\(8\)](#)

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