[[ commands:builtin:readonly ]]

# The readonly builtin command

## Synopsis

```
readonly [-p] [-a] [-A] [-f] [NAME[=VALUE] ...]
```

## Description

The `readonly` builtin command is used to mark variables or functions as read-only, which means unchangeable. This implies that it can't be unset anymore. A `readonly` variable may not be redefined in child scopes. A readonly global may not be redefined as a function local variable. Simple command environment assignments may not reference readonly variables.

## Options

| Option | Description |
|--------|-------------|
| -a | refer to normal arrays |
| -A | refer to associative arrays |
| -f | refer to functions |
| -p | print all read-only variables or functions, `-a`, `-A` and `-f` can be used to filter. The output is reusable as input |

An argument of `--` disables further option processing.

## Return status

| Status | Reason |
|--------|--------|
| 0 | no error |
| !=0 | invalid option |
| !=0 | invalid combination of options |
| !=0 | a given `NAME` is invalid |

# Examples

# Portability considerations

- in POSIX®, only the `-p` option is specified

# See also

- The declare builtin command
- The unset builtin command

# 🗩 Discussion

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