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[[syntax:ccmd:grouping_plain]]

Grouping commands

Synopsis

```
{ <LIST>; }

{ <LIST>
}
```

Description

The list <LIST> is simply executed in the **current** shell environment. The list must be terminated with a **newline** or **semicolon**. For parsing reasons, the curly braces must be separated from <LIST> by a **semicolon** and **blanks** if they're in the same line! ¹⁾²⁾

This is known as a **group command**. The return status is the exit status (exit code) of the list

The input and output filedescriptors are cumulative:

```
{
  echo "PASSWD follows"
  cat /etc/passwd
  echo
  echo "GROUPS follows"
  cat /etc/group
} >output.txt
```

This compound command also usually is the body of a function definition, though not the only compound command that's valid there:

Examples

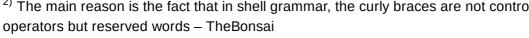
A Try-Catch block

Portability considerations

See also

• grouping commands in a subshell

¹⁾ Actually any properly terminated compound command will work without extra separator (also in some other shells), **example**: { while sleep 1; do echo ZzZzzZ; done } is valid. But this is not documented, infact the documentation explicitly says that a semicolon or a newline must separate the enclosed list. – thanks geirha at Freenode
2) The main reason is the fact that in shell grammar, the curly braces are not control





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