

# 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! <sup>1)2)</sup>

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:

```
print_help() {  
  echo "Options:"  
  echo "-h           This help text"  
  echo "-f FILE       Use config file FILE"  
  echo "-u USER      Run as user USER"  
}
```

## Examples

## A Try-Catch block

```
try_catch() {  
    { # Try-block:  
        eval "$@"  
    } ||  
    { # Catch-block:  
        echo "An error occurred"  
        return -1  
    }  
}
```

## Portability considerations

## See also



- grouping commands in a subshell

<sup>1)</sup> 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

<sup>2)</sup> The main reason is the fact that in shell grammar, the curly braces are not control operators but reserved words – TheBonsai



## Discussion

 syntax/ccmd/grouping\_plain.txt  Last modified: 2016/06/02 20:49 by samuelwn

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