perror

Defined in header `<stdio.h>`

```
void perror( const char *s );
```

Prints a textual description of the error code currently stored in the system variable `errno` to `stderr`.

The description is formed by concatenating the following components:

- the contents of the null-terminated byte string pointed to by s, followed by `": "` (unless s is a null pointer or the character pointed to by s is the null character)
- implementation-defined error message string describing the error code stored in `errno`, followed by `'\n'`. The error message string is identical to the result of `strerror(errno)`.

Parameters

s - pointer to a null-terminated string with explanatory message

Return value

(none)

Example

Run this code

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main(void)
{
    FILE *f = fopen("non_existent", "r");
    if (f == NULL) {
        perror("fopen() failed");
    } else {
        fclose(f);
    }
}
```

Possible output:

```
fopen() failed: No such file or directory
```

References

- C11 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:2011):

    - 7.21.10.4 The perror function (p: 339)

- C99 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1999):

    - 7.19.10.4 The perror function (p: 305)

- C89/C90 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1990):

    - 4.9.10.4 The perror function

See also

strerror **strerror_s** (C11) **strerrorlen_s** (C11)	returns a text version of a given error code (function)	

C++ documentation for **perror**