

getchar

Defined in header `<stdio.h>`

```
int getchar(void);
```

Reads the next character from `stdin`.

Equivalent to `getc(stdin)`.

Parameters

(none)

Return value

The obtained character on success or EOF on failure.

If the failure has been caused by end-of-file condition, additionally sets the *eof* indicator (see `feof()`) on `stdin`. If the failure has been caused by some other error, sets the *error* indicator (see `ferror()`) on `stdin`.

Example

getchar with error checking

Run this code

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(void)
{
    int ch;
    while ((ch=getchar()) != EOF)    /* read/print "abcde" from stdin */
        printf("%c", ch);

    /* Test reason for reaching EOF. */
    if (feof(stdin))                /* if failure caused by end-of-file condition */
        puts("End of file reached");
    else if (ferror(stdin))         /* if failure caused by some other error */
    {
        perror("getchar()");
        fprintf(stderr, "getchar() failed in file %s at line # %d\n", __FILE__, __LINE__);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```

Possible output:

```
abcde
End of file reached
```

References

- C11 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:2011):
 - 7.21.7.6 The `getchar` function (p: 332)
- C99 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1999):
 - 7.19.7.6 The `getchar` function (p: 298)
- C89/C90 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1990):
 - 4.9.7.6 The `getchar` function

See also

fgetc gets a character from a file stream
getc (function)

C++ documentation for **getchar**

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