

# strcspn

Defined in header <string.h>

```
size_t strcspn( const char *dest, const char *src );
```

Returns the length of the maximum initial segment of the null-terminated byte string pointed to by *dest*, that consists of only the characters *not* found in the null-terminated byte string pointed to by *src*.

The behavior is undefined if either *dest* or *src* is not a pointer to a null-terminated byte string.

## Parameters

**dest** - pointer to the null-terminated byte string to be analyzed

**src** - pointer to the null-terminated byte string that contains the characters to search for

## Return value

The length of the maximum initial segment that contains only characters not found in the null-terminated byte string pointed to by *src*

## Notes

The function name stands for "complementary span" because the function searches for characters not found in *src*, that is the complement of *src*.

## Example

Run this code

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

int main(void)
{
    const char *string = "abcde3l2$#@";
    const char *invalid = "$#@";

    size_t valid_len = strcspn(string, invalid);
    if(valid_len != strlen(string))
        printf("'%'s' contains invalid chars starting at position %zu\n",
               string, valid_len);
}
```

Output:

```
'abcde3l2$#@' contains invalid chars starting at position 8
```

## References

- C11 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:2011):
  - 7.24.5.3 The strcspn function (p: 368)
- C99 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1999):
  - 7.21.5.3 The strcspn function (p: 331)
- C89/C90 standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1990):
  - 4.11.5.3 The strcspn function

## See also

<b>strspn</b>	returns the length of the maximum initial segment that consists
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	of only the characters found in another byte string (function)
<b>wcscspn</b> (C95)	returns the length of the maximum initial segment that consists of only the wide chars <i>not</i> found in another wide string (function)
<b>strpbrk</b>	finds the first location of any character in one string, in another string (function)
<b>C++ documentation for strcspn</b>	

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