After a client (such as a web browser) sends a request corresponding to one of the HTTP verbs ([Box 3.1](http://ruby.railstutorial.org/chapters/static-pages#sidebar:get_etc)), the web server *responds* with a numerical code indicating the [HTTP status](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_HTTP_status_codes) of the response. For example, a status code of 200 means “success”, and a status code of 301 means “permanent redirect”. If you [install curl](http://www.google.com/search?q=install+curl), a command-line client that can issue HTTP requests, you can see this directly at, e.g., www.google.com (where the --head flag prevents **curl** from returning the whole page):

$ curl --head www.google.com

HTTP/1.1 200 OK