A shell is a command line interpreter which provides the user interface for terminal windows. It can also be used to run scripts, even in non-interactive sessions without a terminal window, as if the commands were being directly typed in. For example,

typing find . -name "\*.c" -ls at the command line accomplishes the same thing as executing a script file containing the lines:

#!/bin/bash

find . -name "\*.c" -ls

The first line of the script, which starts with #!, contains the full path of the command interpreter

(in this case /bin/bash) that is to be used on the file. As we have noted, you have quite a few choices

for the scripting language you can use, such as /usr/bin/perl, /bin/csh, /usr/bin/python, etc.

#! /usr/bin/python3

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| --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Description** |
| **#** | Used to add a comment, except when used as **\#**, or as **#!** when starting a script |
| **\** | Used at the end of a line to indicate continuation on to the next line |
| **;** | Used to interpret what follows as a new command to be executed next |
| **$** | Indicates what follows is an environment variable |
| **>** | Redirect output |
| **>>** | Append output |
| **<** | Redirect input |
| **|** | Used to pipe the result into the next command |