

Okay, here's a breakdown of that Bash cheat sheet, formatted for clarity as if it were being presented in a PDF.

Bash Cheat Sheet: Easy Memory Edition

This cheat sheet provides concise explanations and examples for common Bash operations, designed for quick recall.

1. Files: "Is it there? What is it?"

These tests help you determine the nature and accessibility of files and directories.

- **-d: Directory?**

```
Bash
if [ -d "/home/user/Documents" ]; then
    echo "Documents is a directory"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the specified path is a directory.

- **-f: File (regular)?**

```
Bash
if [ -f "myfile.txt" ]; then
    echo "myfile.txt is a file"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the specified path is a regular file (not a directory, symbolic link, etc.).

- **-e: Exists?**

```
Bash
if [ -e "config.ini" ]; then
    echo "config.ini exists"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the specified path exists (could be a file, directory, or other file system object).

- **-rwx: Read, Write, eXecute? (Specifically -r, -w, -x)**

```
Bash
if [ -r "script.sh" ]; then
    echo "script.sh is readable"
fi

if [ -w "data.log" ]; then
    echo "data.log is writable"
fi
```

```
if [ -x "program" ]; then
    echo "program is executable"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the specified file has read, write, or execute permissions for the current user, respectively.

- **-s: Size (non-empty)?**

```
Bash
if [ -s "report.txt" ]; then
    echo "report.txt is not empty"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the specified file exists and has a size greater than zero.

2. Strings: "Compare and Check"

These operators are used for comparing and checking the properties of strings.

- **-z: Zero (empty)?**

```
Bash
MYVAR=""
if [ -z "$MYVAR" ]; then
    echo "MYVAR is empty"
fi
```

Explanation: Returns true if the length of the string variable is zero. Always quote the variable to avoid issues with spaces or empty strings.

- **-n: Not zero (not empty)?**

```
Bash
MYVAR="some text"
if [ -n "$MYVAR" ]; then
    echo "MYVAR is not empty"
fi
```

Explanation: Returns true if the length of the string variable is greater than zero. Always quote the variable.

- **==: Equal?**

```
Bash
USER="root"
if [ "$USER" == "root" ]; then
    echo "You are root"
fi
```

Explanation: Compares two strings for equality. Note the use of single quotes around the variables to prevent word splitting and globbing.

- **!=:** Not equal?

```
Bash
OS="Linux"
if [ "$OS" != "Windows" ]; then
    echo "Not a Windows system"
fi
```

Explanation: Compares two strings for inequality.

- **< >:** Less/Greater (alphabetical)?

```
Bash
if [[ "apple" < "banana" ]]; then
    echo "apple comes before banana"
fi
```

Explanation: Compares strings lexicographically (alphabetical order). This requires the double square brackets `[[]]` for proper behavior.

3. Numbers: "Math Comparisons"

These operators are used for comparing numerical values.

- **-eq:** Equal?

```
Bash
COUNT=10
if [ "$COUNT" -eq 10 ]; then
    echo "COUNT is 10"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if two numbers are equal.

- **-ne:** Not equal?

```
Bash
AGE=25
if [ "$AGE" -ne 0 ]; then
    echo "AGE is not zero"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if two numbers are not equal.

- **-lt, -le:** Less than, Less than or equal?

```
Bash
NUM=3
```

```
if [ "$NUM" -lt 5 ]; then
    echo "NUM is less than 5"
fi
```

```
SCORE=100
if [ "$SCORE" -le 100 ]; then
    echo "SCORE is less than or equal to 100"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the first number is less than or less than or equal to the second number, respectively.

- **-gt, -ge:** Greater than, Greater than or equal?

```
Bash
SIZE=1500
if [ "$SIZE" -gt 1024 ]; then
    echo "SIZE is greater than 1024"
fi
```

```
VERSION=2
if [ "$VERSION" -ge 2 ]; then
    echo "VERSION is 2 or higher"
fi
```

Explanation: Checks if the first number is greater than or greater than or equal to the second number, respectively.

4. Logic: "Combine and Negate"

These operators allow you to combine multiple conditions or negate a condition.

- **&&:** AND (both must be true)

```
Bash
if [ -d "mydir" ] && [ -w "mydir" ]; then
    echo "mydir exists and is writable"
fi
```

Explanation: The second command after && is executed only if the first command (or condition) returns true (exit code 0).

- **||:** OR (one or both true)

```
Bash
if [ -f "file1.txt" ] || [ -f "file2.txt" ]; then
    echo "Either file1.txt or file2.txt exists"
fi
```

Explanation: The second command after || is executed only if the first command (or condition) returns false (non-zero exit code).

- **!:** NOT (reverse truth)
Bash
if [! -f "temp.txt"]; then
 echo "temp.txt does not exist"
fi

Explanation: Reverses the truth value of the following condition. If the condition is true, ! makes it false, and vice versa.

5. Special Variables: "Info About the Script"

These built-in variables provide information about the currently running script and its environment.

- **\$?:** Last command's ? (exit code)
Bash
ls non_existent_file
echo "Exit code: \$?"

Explanation: Stores the exit status of the last executed command. A value of 0 usually indicates success, while non-zero values indicate an error.

- **\$\$:** My Process Identifier (PID)
Bash
echo "Script PID: \$\$"

Explanation: Contains the process ID of the current shell or script.

- **##:** # of arguments
Bash
If the script is run as: ./myscript arg1 arg2
echo "Number of arguments: \$#"
Output: 2

Explanation: Represents the number of command-line arguments passed to the script.

- **\$@:** All arguments (separate)
Bash
If the script is run as: ./myscript hello world
for arg in "\$@"; do
 echo "Argument: \$arg"
done
Output:
Argument: hello

Argument: world

Explanation: An array-like variable containing all the command-line arguments passed to the script, with each argument treated as a separate word (even if quoted).

6. Redirects: "Send Input/Output"

Redirections allow you to change the standard input, output, and error streams of commands.

- **>:** Overwrite output

Bash
ls > filelist.txt

Explanation: Redirects the standard output of the ls command to the file filelist.txt, overwriting the file if it exists.

- **>>:** Append output

Bash
echo "New data" >> data.log

Explanation: Redirects the standard output of the echo command to the file data.log, appending the output to the end of the file if it exists.

- **<:** Input from file

Bash
wc -l < input.txt

Explanation: Redirects the standard input of the wc -l (word count, lines) command to come from the file input.txt.

- **2>:** Error output

Bash
command_that_might_fail 2> errors.log

Explanation: Redirects the standard error (file descriptor 2) of the command to the file errors.log.

- **&>:** All output (errors and normal)

Bash
script.sh &> output.log

Explanation: Redirects both the standard output and standard error to the specified file (output.log). This is a shorthand for 2>&1 > output.log in some shells.

7. Process Substitution: "Command Output as File"

Process substitution allows you to treat the output of a command as if it were a file.

- **<():** Use command output as input

Bash

```
diff <(ls dir1) <(ls dir2)
```

Explanation: Executes the `ls dir1` and `ls dir2` commands, and their outputs are made available as temporary files. The `diff` command then compares these two outputs as if they were files.

- **>():** Use file descriptor as output

Bash

```
tee >(gzip > output.gz) < input.txt
```

Explanation: The output of `tee` (which reads from `input.txt` and writes to standard output) is also piped into a process that compresses it using `gzip` and saves it to `output.gz`.

8. Brace Expansion: "Generate Lists"

Brace expansion provides a way to generate multiple similar strings.

- **{1..5}:** Numbers 1 to 5

Bash

```
echo {1..5} # Output: 1 2 3 4 5
```

Explanation: Generates a sequence of numbers from 1 to 5.

- **{a..e}:** Letters a to e

Bash

```
echo {a..e} # Output: a b c d e
```

Explanation: Generates a sequence of lowercase letters from a to e.

- **touch file{1..3}.txt**

Bash

```
# Creates files: file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt
```

Explanation: Can be used to create multiple files or directories with a common prefix or suffix.

9. Misc. "Extras"

These are some additional useful Bash features.

- **&:** Run in background

Bash

```
long_running_command &
```

```
echo "Command started in the background"
```

Explanation: Executes the command in the background, allowing you to continue using the terminal.

- **;**: Multiple commands on one line

Bash
cd mydir; ls -l

Explanation: Separates multiple commands on a single line. The commands are executed sequentially.

- **&&**: If previous succeeds

Bash
mkdir newdir && cd newdir

Explanation: Executes the second command (cd newdir) only if the first command (mkdir newdir) completes successfully (exit code 0).

10. Set Flags: "Shell Behavior"

The set command can modify the behavior of the Bash shell.

- **-e**: Exit on error

Bash
set -e
command_that_might_fail
echo "This won't print if the above fails"

Explanation: If any command exits with a non-zero status, the script will terminate immediately. This is useful for preventing cascading errors.

- **-x**: Show commands as they run

Bash
set -x
ls -l
echo "Done"
set +x # To disable tracing

Explanation: Displays each command before executing it, which is helpful for debugging. Use set +x to turn off this tracing.

- **-u**: Error on unset variable

Bash
set -u
echo "\$undefined_var" # This will cause an error and script termination

Explanation: Treats unset variables as an error. This helps catch typos in variable names.

This cheat sheet should provide a handy reference for common Bash operations. Keep practicing, and these commands will become second nature!