




Perl 5 Constants and Variables

<div>Perl Constants</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Perl pragma to declare constants. ⚠️ But be aware that these are still not read-only, that they inject sub-routines and have several limitations. Read the doc!!</li><li>CPAN modules for defining constants by Neil Bowers . Of particular interest: <b>Const::Fast</b> and <b>Attribute::Constant</b> for efficient read-only constants.</li></ul></div>							
Perl Variables Names		Scalar Naming Conventions		Array Naming Conventions	All: underscore or letter of the first character.		
Case is significant in all names. ASCII by default, <b>UTF-8</b> if the <b>utf8 pragma</b> is used.		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local variables:</li><li>Global variables:</li><li>Constants:</li><li>All variables:</li></ul></div>	<div><div>\$lowercase</div><div>\$Title_Case</div><div>\$UPPER_CASE</div><div>words separated by underscores.</div></div>	<div>Similar conventions, except that array names should be <b>plural</b>.</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>@locals</li><li>@Global_Arrays</li><li>@CONSTANT_ARRAYS</li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Module names are MixedCaseNoUnderscores</li><li>Constants are UPPERCASE_WITH_UNDERSCORES</li><li>Package wide vars are Mixed_Case_With_Underscores</li><li>Functions/methods are lowercase_with_underscores</li><li>Avoid ALLUPPERCASE: used by Perl special variables.</li></ul></div>		
Perl types	Sigil	Examples	Meaning		Extra Info		
Scalar	\$	<div>\$foo \$days[28] \$days{ 'Feb' } \${days} \$Dog::days \$Dog' days \$#days \$days-&gt;[28] \$days[0][2] \$d{99}{ 'Feb' } \$d{99, 'Feb' }</div>	<div>Simple scalar value</div> <div>29<sup>th</sup> element of array @days</div> <div>Value associated with the <i>Feb</i> key of hash %days</div> <div>Same as \$days, but unambiguous before alphanumerics. Useful inside strings for interpolation of variables followed by other letters.</div> <div>The \$days variable inside the Dog package.</div> <div>Same as above. However this is an archaic use of the single quote.</div> <div>Last index of array @days .</div> <div>29<sup>th</sup> element of array pointed to by reference \$days.</div> <div>Multi-dimensional array</div> <div>Multi-dimensional hash</div> <div>Multi-dimensional hash emulation</div>				
<b>list and Array</b> <div>0-based indexed (first index is 0).</div> <div>Last index of array @name is \$#name</div>	@	<div>@days @days[3,4,5] @days[3..5]</div>	<div>Array containing (<code>\$days[0]</code>, <code>\$days[1]</code>, ... <code>#days[\$#days]</code>) .</div> <div>Array slice containing (<code>\$days[3]</code>, <code>\$days[4]</code>, <code>\$days[5]</code>) .</div> <div>Array slice containing (<code>\$days[3]</code>, <code>\$days[4]</code>, <code>\$days[5]</code>) .</div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A <i>list</i> is an ordered collection of scalars (of any type).</li><li>An <i>array</i> is a variable that contains a list.</li><li>Reading beyond the end of array returns <b>undef</b></li></ul></div>		
		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Negative indices used in read access from the end: -1 is last item.</li><li>Use these negative indices to access from the end. <b>Do not compute index with \$#name -3, if the list size is 2, this will give invalid results.</b></li></ul></div>					
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>slices</b></li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Use a slice to select multiple elements from a list, array, or hash.</li><li>Don't use a slice when you know you need exactly one element.</li></ul></div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An lvalue slice imposes list context on the righthand side.</li></ul></div>				
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Anonymous arrays</b></li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What are the advantages of anonymous array? @ StackOverflow</li><li>Perlref @ Perldoc, Perl reference tutorial @ Perldoc</li></ul></div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anonymous array := a type of array reference.</li><li>Array reference allows Perl to treat the array as a single item.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This can be used to build, nested data structures.</li></ul></li></ul></div>				
Hash/associative array	%	%days	<div>Associative array (hash): keys-value pairs. Can be initialized as:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><code>%days = (Jan =&gt; 31, Feb =&gt; \$leap? 29 : 28, ...)</code></li><li><code>%days = ("Jan, 31, 'Feb', \$leap? 29 : 28, ... )</code></li></ul></div>		Initialize a hash slice with array context: <code>@char_to_num{'A' .. 'Z'} = 1 .. 26;</code>		
		@days{ 'J' , 'F' }	<div>Hash slice containing (<code>\$days{ 'J' }</code>, <code>\$days{ 'F' }</code>) .</div>				
Subroutine	&	&foo	& is needed to create reference to subroutine.				
Typeglob	*	*foo	See: <a href="#">Advanced Perl Programming, 1st Edition Section 3.2</a>				
7 kinds of package variables or variable-like elements in Perl:	<div><div>1. scalar variables</div><div>2. array variables</div><div>3. hash variables</div></div>		<div><div>4. subroutine name</div><div>5. <b>format</b> names</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>how to format output in Perl?, Perl-Formats</li><li>See <a href="#">write</a> and <a href="#">select</a></li></ul></div></div>		<div><div>6. file handles</div><div>7. directory handles</div></div>		
Scalar values			Numeric literals examples. Note: leading 0 work only for literals, not for string-to-number conversions.		Useful related builtin functions		
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>numeric:</b></li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>integer : using the system's native format.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">bigint</a> - transparent big integer support.</li><li><a href="#">bignum</a> - transparent big number support.</li></ul></li><li>floating-point : using the system's native format.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">bigrat</a> - transparent big rational number support.</li></ul></li></ul></div>		<div>my \$x = 12345; # integer</div> <div>my \$x = 12345.67; # floating point</div> <div>my \$x = 6.02e23; # scientific notation</div> <div>my \$x = 0x1f.0p3; # power<sup>2</sup> exponent: <i>Perl &gt;= v5.22</i></div> <div>my \$x = 4_294_967_296; # underline for legibility</div> <div>my \$x = 0x1234_5678; # underline in hex is also OK</div> <div>my \$x = 0377; # octal</div> <div>my \$x = 0o377; # octal also <i>Perl &gt;= v5.34</i></div> <div>my \$x = 0xffff; # hexadecimal</div> <div>my \$x = 0b1100_0010; # binary</div>		<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">oct</a> - supports binary, octal, hex</li><li><a href="#">hex</a></li><li><a href="#">POSIX::ceil</a></li><li><a href="#">POSIX::floor</a></li><li><a href="#">abs</a></li></ul></div>		
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>string</b></li></ul></div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>double-quoted strings: perform backslash and variable interpolation of expression that begin with \$ (a scalar) or @ (an array). <b>Hashes cannot be interpolated.</b></li><li>single-quote strings: only perform \' and \\ substitution (to ' and \ respectively), nothing else.</li><li>Single quote and double quote strings can spread multiple lines: it embeds the newline character on each new line.</li><li>But \n is only expanded in double quoted strings! In single quote string it is treated as two characters; no substitution is done (as explained above).</li></ul></div>						
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Unicode support</a></li></ul></div>	<div>To use Unicode literally in a program, add the <b>utf8 pragma</b>: <b>use utf8;</b></div> <div>See: <a href="#">Perl Unicode Tutorial</a>, <a href="#">Perl Unicode Introduction</a>, <a href="#">Perl Unicode Support</a> @ perldoc</div>						
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Quote constructs</a></li></ul></div>	Customary	Generic	Meaning	Interpolates?	Notes		
See: <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Strings in Perl: quoted, interpolated and escaped</a></li></ul></div>	' '	q//	Literal string	No	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Not all characters can be used as the / separator. { }, ( ) and &lt; &gt; can also be used.</li><li>You can use whitespace between the quote specifier and its initial bracketing character:<div>my \$chuck_of_code = q { if (\$condition) { print "Salut!"; } };</div></li></ul></div>		
	"""	qq//	Literal string	Yes			
	~	qx//	Command execution	Yes			
	()	qw//	World list	No			
	//	m//	Pattern match	Yes			
	s///	s///	Pattern substitution	Yes			
	tr///	y///	Character translation	No			
	""	qr//	Regular expression	Yes			
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Character escapes</b> (only inside double quoted strings)</li></ul></div>	<div><div>\a</div><div>\b</div><div>\e</div><div>\f</div><div>\n</div><div>\r</div><div>\t</div></div>		<div><div>\e</div><div>\033</div><div>\o{33}</div><div>\x7f</div><div>\x{263a}</div><div>\cC</div></div>		<div>Any Unicode code point, by name:  <div>\N{LATIN SMALL LETTER E WITH ACUTE}é</div><div>\N{ U+E9 }é</div></div>		
	<div><div>\u</div><div>\l</div></div>		<div><div>\U</div><div>\L</div><div>\F</div><div>\Q</div></div>		<div>Ends \U, \L, \F or \Q</div>		
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>translation escapes</b> (inside <b>double quoted</b> strings)</li></ul></div>	<div><div>\u</div><div>\l</div></div>		<div><div>\U</div><div>\L</div><div>\F</div><div>\Q</div></div>		<div>Ends \U, \L, \F or \Q</div>		
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">bareword</a></li></ul></div>	<div>In Perl, a <i>bareword</i> refers to a sequence of characters suitable for an identifier. It's not quoted. By default Perl allows barewords to behave like strings.</div> <div>This is not allowed when any of <b>use strict;</b> or <b>use strict "subs";</b> or <b>use v5.12;</b> is specified.</div>						
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Here documents</a></li><li><a href="#">Here docs @ Perl maven</a></li><li><a href="#">Perl here doc @Wikipedia</a></li></ul></div>	<div>Perl here-documents are a form of line oriented quoting. There are several forms of here documents, where the identifier (like EOF used below, but can be any word) must be placed at the beginning of the terminating line:</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Default</b> : &lt;&lt;EOF; Supports variable interpolation.</li><li><b>Double quotes</b>: &lt;&lt;"EOF"; Supports variable interpolation. Can also be written with whitespace as in &lt;&lt; "EOF";</li><li><b>Single quotes</b>: &lt;&lt;'EOF'; Does not support interpolation. Can also be written with whitespace as in &lt;&lt; 'EOF';</li><li><b>backticks</b>: &lt;&lt;`EOF; Execute commands in a shell and return text printed on stdout. Can also be written with whitespace as in &lt;&lt; `EOF`;</li><li><b>indented</b>: &lt;&lt;~EOF; Allows indenting the here-doc string. Can also use the ~ with the other forms: &lt;&lt;~\EOF, &lt;&lt;~"EOF", &lt;&lt;~"EOF", &lt;&lt;~`EOF`</li><li>They can also be stacked and text can be transformed. See the documentation.</li></ul></div>						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Perl Regexp</b> info, cheatsheets &amp; regexp testers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Regexp Tutorial</b></li><li>• <b>Learn PCRE in X minutes</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>PCRE cheatsheet</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Debuggex regexp tester</li><li>• regex101</li><li>• RegEx Pal</li></ul>		
<b>Perl Special Variables</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Perl Variables</b></li></ul>					
<div>🍷 To get information about a Perl special variable from the command line use the <b>perldoc -v</b> command.</div> <div>• To get information about <b>\$&lt;</b> use: <b>perldoc -v '\$&lt;'</b></div>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Deprecated and removed variables:</b></li></ul>	<div><b><u>\$#</u></b>     <b><u>\$*</u></b>     <b><u>\$[</u></b>     <b><u>\${^ENCODING}</u></b>     <b><u>\${^WIN32_SLOPPY_STAT}</u></b></div>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>General variables</b></li></ul>					
default input and pattern searching space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$ARG</b></li><li>• <b>\$_</b></li></ul>	subroutine parameters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>@ARG</b></li><li>• <b>@_</b></li></ul>		
list separator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$LIST_SEPARATOR</b></li><li>• <b>\$"</b></li></ul>	Subscript separator for multidimensional array emulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$\$SUBSCRIPT_SEPARATOR</b></li><li>• <b>\$\$SUBSEP</b></li><li>• <b>\$;</b></li></ul>		
Name of executed program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$PROGRAM_NAME</b></li><li>• <b>\$0</b></li></ul>	Name used to execute the current copy of Perl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$EXECUTABLE_NAME</b></li><li>• <b>\$^X</b></li></ul>		
Perl process ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$PROCESS_ID</b></li><li>• <b>\$PID</b></li><li>• <b>\$\$</b></li></ul>	Process real GID	<div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$REAL_GROUP_ID</b></li><li>• <b>\$GID</b></li><li>• <b>\$(</b></li></ul></div><div>Process effective GID</div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$EFFECTIVE_GROUP_ID</b></li><li>• <b>\$EGID</b></li><li>• <b>\$)</b></li></ul></div>		
Process real UID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$REAL_USER_ID</b></li><li>• <b>\$UIG</b></li><li>• <b>\$&lt;</b></li></ul>	Process effective UID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$EFFECTIVE_USER_ID\$</b></li><li>• <b>\$EUID</b></li><li>• <b>\$&gt;</b></li></ul>		
Special variables in sort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$a</b></li><li>• <b>\$b</b></li></ul>	The Perl <b>sort</b> function uses global variables \$a and \$b. <b>sort</b> sorts strings. Pass a sorting function that uses the <b>&lt;=&gt;</b> equality operator to force numerical comparisons: <b>@sorted = sort { \$a &lt;=&gt; \$b } @unsorted;</b>			
Current environment	<b>%ENV</b> Environment variable accessed as an associative array (a hash). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See: Perl: <a href="#">How to access shell environment variables through Perl associative arrays</a>.</li></ul>				
Perl interpreter revision, version and subversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$OLD_PERL_VERSION</b></li><li>• <b>\$]</b></li></ul>	Perl interpreter revision, version and subversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$PERL_VERSION</b></li><li>• <b>\$^V</b></li></ul>		
Maximum file descriptor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$\$SYSTEM_FD_MAX</b></li><li>• <b>\$^F</b></li></ul>	Fields of each line when auto-split mode is on.	<b>@F</b>		
Include Directories	<b>@INC</b>	Included filenames	<b>%INC</b>	Hook localization (?)	<b>\$INC</b>
inplace-edit extension value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$INPLACE_EDIT</b></li><li>• <b>\$^I</b></li></ul>	Package's class parent classes	<b>@ISA</b>	Emergency memory pool	<b>\$^M</b>
Maximum block nesting	<b>\${^MAX_NESTED_EVAL_BEGIN_BLOCKS}</b>			Time when program began running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$BASETIME</b></li><li>• <b>\$^T</b></li></ul>
Name of OS where this Perl was built	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$OSNAME</b></li><li>• <b>\$^O</b></li></ul>	Signal handlers	<b>%SIG</b>	Coderefs for various perl keywords	<b>%{^HOOK}</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Regexp Variables</b></li></ul>					
captured sub-patterns	<b>\$&lt;digit&gt;(\$1, \$2, ...)</b>	Capture buffer content	<b>@{^CAPTURE}</b>		
String matched	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$MATCH</b></li><li>• <b>\$&amp;</b></li></ul>	String matched (compiled regexp)	<b>\${^MATCH}</b>		
String preceding match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$PREMATCH</b></li><li>• <b>\$`</b></li></ul>	String preceding match (compiled regexp)	<b>\${^PREMATCH}</b>		
String following match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$POSTMATCH</b></li><li>• <b>\$'</b></li></ul>	String following match (compiled regexp)	<b>{^POSTMATCH}</b>		
Last capture group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$LAST_PAREN_MATCH</b></li><li>• <b>\$+</b></li></ul>	Most recently closed capture group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$LAST_SUBMATCH_RESULT</b></li><li>• <b>\$^N</b></li></ul>		
Match capture key values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>%{^CAPTURE}</b></li><li>• <b>%LAST_PAREN_MATCH</b></li><li>• <b>%+</b></li></ul>	Maximum regexp nested group	<b>\${^RE_COMPILE_RECURSION_LIMIT}</b>		
Match start offsets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>@LAST_MATCH_START</b></li><li>• <b>@-</b></li></ul>	Match ends offsets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>@LAST_MATCH_END</b></li><li>• <b>@+</b></li></ul>	Named captured groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>%{^CAPTURE_ALL}</b></li><li>• <b>%-</b></li></ul>
Last successful pattern	<b>\${^LAST_SUCESSFUL_PATTERN}</b>		Result of last successful regexp assertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$LAST_REGEXP_CODE_RESULT</b></li><li>• <b>\$^R</b></li></ul>	
regexp debug flag	<b>\${^RE_DEBUG_FLAG}</b>		regexp internal optimization/memory	<b>\${^RE_TRIE_MAXBUF}</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Format Variables</b></li></ul>					
Current value of the write() accumulator for format() lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$ACCUMULATOR</b></li><li>• <b>\$^A</b></li></ul>				
Form feed format. defaults to \f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IO::Handle-&gt;format_formfeed(EXPR)</b></li><li>• <b>\$FORMAT_FORMFEED</b></li><li>• <b>\$^L</b></li></ul>	Set of characters after which a string may be broken to fill continuation fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IO::Handle-&gt;format_line_break_characters EXPR</b></li><li>• <b>\$FORMAT_LINE_BREAK_CHARACTERS</b></li><li>• <b>\$:</b></li></ul>		
Number of lines left on the page on currently selected output channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>HANDLE-&gt;format_lines_left(EXPR)</b></li><li>• <b>\$FORMAT_LINES_LEFT</b></li><li>• <b>\$-</b></li></ul>	Current page length of current output channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>HANDLE-&gt;format_lines_per_page(EXPR)</b></li><li>• <b>\$FORMAT_LINES_PER_PAGE</b></li><li>• <b>\$=</b></li></ul>		
Name of current top-page format of output channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>HANDLE-&gt;format_top_name(EXPR)</b></li><li>• <b>\$FORMAT_TOP_NAME</b></li><li>• <b>\$^</b></li></ul>	Report format name of output channel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>HANDLE-&gt;format_name(EXPR)</b></li><li>• <b>\$FORMAT_NAME</b></li><li>• <b>\$~</b></li></ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Error Variables</b></li></ul>	The variables <b>\$@</b> , <b>\$!</b> , <b>\$^E</b> , and <b> \$? </b> contain information about different types of error conditions that may appear during execution of a Perl program. They correspond to errors detected by the Perl interpreter, C library, operating system, or an external program, respectively.				
Perl error from the last eval operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$EVAL_ERROR</b></li><li>• <b>\$@</b></li></ul>	Current state of interpreter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$EXCEPTIONS_BEING_CAUGHT</b></li><li>• <b>\$^S</b></li></ul>		
Current value of C errno integer variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$OS_ERROR</b></li><li>• <b>\$ERRNO</b></li><li>• <b>\$!</b></li></ul>	<b>\$!</b> returns the system variable <b>errno</b> when used in a numeric context, but returns the string from <b>perlor()</b> when used in string context.	Hash of error names to 0 or 1, set to 1 if current error is this error.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>%OS_ERROR</b></li><li>• <b>%ERRNO</b></li><li>• <b>%!</b></li></ul>	
OS detected error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>\$EXTENDED_OS_ERROR</b></li><li>• <b>\$^E</b></li></ul>				

Status returned by last pipe close. backtick command. wait, waited, or system() call.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>\$CHILD_ERROR</code></li> <li><code>\$?</code></li> </ul>	native status returned by last pipe close . backtick command. wait() or waitpid() or system() call	<code>\${^CHILD_ERROR_NATIVE}</code>
Current value of warning switch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>\$WARNING</code></li> <li><code>\$^W</code></li> </ul>	Current set of warning checks enabled by the use warnings pragma	<code>\${^WARNING_BITS}</code>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Variables related to the interpreter state</a></li> </ul>	These variables provide information about the current interpreter state.		
Flag associated with the <code>-c</code> switch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>\$COMPILING</code></li> <li><code>\$^C</code></li> </ul>	The current value of the debugging flags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>\$DEBUGGING</code></li> <li><code>\$^D</code></li> </ul>
Current phase of the perl interpreter	<code>\${^GLOBAL_PHASE}</code>	Debugging support. Internal variable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>\$PERLDB</code></li> <li><code>\$^P</code></li> </ul>
Compile-time hints for the perl interpreter. Internal use only	<code>\$^H</code>	Values of compiled statements	<code>%^H</code>
Taint mode	<code>\${^TAINT}</code>	Safe locale operations availability	<code>\${^SAFE_LOCALES}</code>
Input/Output Layers. Internal use by PerlIO only.	<code>\${^OPEN}</code>	Unicode Settings of Perl	<code>\${^UNICODE}</code>
Internal UTF-8 offset caching code state	<code>\${^UTF8CACHE}</code>	State of UTF-8 locale detected by perl at startup.	<code>\${^UTF8LOCALE}</code>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">File handle Variables</a></li> </ul>	See also: <a href="#">Perl File Handles</a> <span style="float:right">The following variables are used in the Input/Output handling as well as program arguments.</span>		
Name of current file read from <code>&lt;&gt;</code>	<code>\$ARGV</code>	Command line arguments of the script ← See <a href="#">diamond operator &lt;&gt;</a> . →	<div> <div><code>@ARGV</code></div> <div>Number of arguments minus one</div> <div><code> \$#ARGV</code></div> </div>
Special file handle that iterates over command-line filenames in <code>@ARGV</code>	<code>ARGV</code>	Special file handle that points to currently open output file when doing edit-in-place processing	<code>ARGVOUT</code>
Output field separator for the print operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>IO::Handle-&gt;output_field_separator( EXPR )</code></li> <li><code>\$OUTPUT_FIELD_SEPARATOR</code></li> <li><code>\$OFS</code></li> <li><code>\$,</code></li> </ul>	Current line number for the last file handled accessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>HANDLE-&gt;input_line_number( EXPR )</code></li> <li><code>\$INPUT_LINE_NUMBER</code></li> <li><code>\$NR</code></li> <li><code>\$.</code></li> </ul>
Input record separator (newline by default)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>IO::Handle-&gt;input_record_separator( EXPR )</code></li> <li><code>\$INPUT_RECORD_SEPARATOR</code></li> <li><code>\$RS</code></li> <li><code>\$/</code></li> </ul>	Output record separator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>IO::Handle-&gt;output_record_separator( EXPR )</code></li> <li><code>\$OUTPUT_RECORD_SEPARATOR</code></li> <li><code>\$ORS</code></li> <li><code>\$\</code></li> </ul>
<b>Auto-flush control</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">order of output @ Perl Maven</a></li> <li><a href="#">Suffering from Buffering?</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>HANDLE-&gt;autoflush( EXPR )</code></li> <li><code>\$OUTPUT_AUTOFLUSH</code></li> <li><code>\$!</code></li> </ul>	Perl activates file buffering by default. Assign 1 to <code>\$!</code> to activate auto-flush.	<div> <div>Last read file handle</div> <div><code> \${^LAST_FH}</code></div> </div>

## Perl 5 Input/Output 🚧

References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">open @ perldoc browser</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Writing to files with Perl @ Perl Maven</a></li><li>• <a href="#">open file in-memory @ stackOverflow</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Stupid open() tricks @Perl.com:</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No explicit filename</li><li>• create an anonymous temporary file</li></ul></li><li>• <a href="#">print to a string</a></li><li>• <a href="#">read lines from a string</a></li></ul>				
<b>print, printf, sprintf</b>	<b><a href="#">print</a>, <a href="#">printf</a>, <a href="#">sprintf</a></b> (which describes the format) . Note: <a href="#">print</a> is more efficient than <a href="#">printf</a> . print and printf output to stdout by default, but <a href="#">accept a file handle as the first argument if it is NOT followed by a separating comma!</a> (a <code>'</code> , <code>'</code> puts it in the list to print!)				
<b><a href="#">diamond operator &lt;&gt;</a></b>	Both <code>&lt;&gt;</code> and <code>&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;</code> operators read the content of files listed on the command line via <code>@ARGV</code> . Nothing or <code>-</code> on the command line identifies stdin. The <code>&lt;&gt;</code> operator supports shell redirection and pipe operations which <code>&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;</code> does not allow (for security reasons).				
<b><a href="#">The double diamond, a more secure &lt;&gt; (Perl &gt;= v5.22)</a></b>	<code>print &lt;&gt;;</code>	← Simple implementation of <code>/bin/cat</code>	<code>print &lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;;</code>	← safer one	Redirection cannot be forced via file names embedding them with. the <code>&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;</code> operator.
	<code>print sort &lt;&gt;;</code>	← Simple implementation of <code>/bin/sort</code>	<code>print sort &lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;;</code>	← safer one	
 <b><a href="#">In-place-editing ↔</a></b> The <code>&lt;&gt;</code> operator tries to duplicate the original file's permission and ownership.	Set <code>\$^I</code> to a backup file extension (such as Emacs <code>"~"</code> or <code>".bak"</code> ) to change the behaviour of the <code>&lt;&gt;</code> and <code>&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;</code> operators and print. In a <code>while (&lt;&gt;) {...}</code> loop, when <code>\$^I</code> is not <code>undef</code> (its default), Perl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• renames currently processed file with the specified extension added,</li><li>• opens a new file with the original name</li><li>• prints into the new file.</li><li>• Any modification goes into the new file: in-place-editing it!</li></ul>		<pre>use strict; \$I = "~"; # rename old file: add '~' to it's name (Emacs-style backup)  while (&lt;&gt;) {     s/something/Something else/; # perform any substitution     print; }</pre>		
<b><a href="#">perl -i cmdline option</a></b>	It's also possible to do this on the command line!		For example:	<code>perl -p -i- -w -e 's/something/Something else/g' data*.dat</code>	
Special filehandle names	<b><a href="#">ARGV</a></b>	The special filehandle that iterates over command-line filenames in <code>@ARGV</code> . Usually written as the null filehandle in the angle operator <code>&lt;&gt;</code> (or <code>&lt;&lt;&gt;&gt;</code> )			
Also See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">File handle Variables</a> section above.</li></ul>	<b><a href="#">ARGVOUT</a></b>	The special filehandle that points to the currently open output file when doing edit-in-place processing with <code><a href="#">_i</a></code> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Useful when you have to do a lot of inserting and don't want to keep modifying <code><a href="#">\$_</a></code></li></ul>			
	<b><a href="#">STDIN</a></b>	<b><code>&lt;STDIN&gt;</code></b> : line input operator for the STDIN filehandle (for the <b><code>standard input</code></b> ). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each time <code>&lt;STDIN&gt;</code> is used in scalar context, Perl reads 1 complete line of the standard input and uses it as the value of <code>&lt;STDIN&gt;</code>.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The string includes a line termination character. Use the <b><code>chomp()</code></b> built-in function to strip it off the variable.</li></ul></li><li>• If <code>&lt;STDIN&gt;</code> is read in list context, it returns all lines inside a list! For example, <code>foreach (&lt;STDIN&gt;){ ... }</code> reads the entire stdin in 1 step: <code><a href="#">\$_</a></code> holds it all!</li></ul> <div><div><pre>while (&lt;STDIN&gt;) { # print all     print;      # lines of                 # stdin }</pre></div><div><pre>while (defined(\$_ = &lt;STDIN&gt;)) {     print \$_; }</pre></div><div>The code in the left-most cell is the shortest form. It is equivalent to the code beside it; each line of stdin is stored in the default variable <code><a href="#">\$_</a></code> and the loop stops on end at which time <code>&lt;STDIN&gt;</code> returns <code>undef</code>.</div></div>			
	<b><a href="#">STDOUT</a></b>	<b><a href="#">standard output</a></b>			
	<b><a href="#">STDERR</a></b>	<b><a href="#">standard error</a></b> Note: generally STDERR is not buffered, while STDOUT is buffered by default. Text sent on STDERR may show up before STDOUT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Print a new line on STDOUT to help flushing it or assign 1 to <code><a href="#">\$ </a></code> to activate auto-flush.</li></ul>			
	<b><a href="#">DATA</a></b>				
	<b><a href="#">say</a></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">say</a> use feature <code>qw(say);</code> or use <code>v5.10;</code> (or higher). Like <code>print</code>, but implicitly appends a newline at the end of the list.</li></ul>			

## Perl 5 Statements 🚧

<b><a href="#">Loop control</a></b>	See <a href="#">perlsyn</a> for more information on Perl syntax which includes declarations, blocks, loops, labels, subroutines, etc...		
👉 Use the <b><a href="#">last</a></b> and <b><a href="#">redo</a></b> inside a naked block of code to control looping.		The <b><a href="#">last</a></b> , <b><a href="#">next</a></b> , and <b><a href="#">redo</a></b> loop control keywords work in the following constructs:	Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The while and foreach loops may have a <b><a href="#">continue block</a></b>: executed before evaluating condition again, which corresponds to the 3rd part of a for loop statement. See <a href="#">this @ stackOverflow</a>.</li> <li>Blocks can be labelled <a href="#">↔</a> as targets to <b><a href="#">last</a></b>, <b><a href="#">next</a></b>, and <b><a href="#">redo</a></b></li> </ul>
	<b>loop control keywords:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><a href="#">last</a> ↔</b>: exits the loop.</li> <li><b><a href="#">next</a> ↔</b>: starts the next iteration of the loop.</li> <li><b><a href="#">redo</a> ↔</b>: restarts the loop block without evaluating the condition again.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><code>while ( condition ) { ... }</code></li> <li><code>until ( condition ) { ... }</code></li> <li><code>for (init; condition; continue) { ... }</code></li> <li><code>foreach array { ... }</code></li> <li>naked block: <code>{ ... }</code></li> </ul>	



Statement modifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>if EXPR</li> <li>unless EXPR</li> <li>while EXPR</li> <li>until EXPR</li> <li>for LIST</li> <li>foreach LIST</li> <li>when EXPR</li> </ul>	The <b>for</b> and <b>foreach</b> statements <b>impose a list context</b> ; the complete list is processed. Therefore a loop like the following trying to stop on a line that has " __END__ " on it will <b>not work</b> since it reads all of STDIN: <pre>foreach (&lt;STDIN&gt;) {     last if ?__END__/;     ...; }</pre>	The while statement <b>imposes a scalar context</b> ; it takes one line at a time from <STDIN> and the following code works properly: <pre>while (&lt;STDIN&gt;) {     last if /__END__/;     ...; }</pre>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>do block</li> </ul>		
Conditional statements			

## Perl 5 Subroutines ⚠️

Perl subroutines			
subroutine &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why we teach the subroutine ampersand</li> <li>Why should I use the &amp; to call a Perl subroutine? @ StackOverflow</li> </ul> Another point of view: <a href="#">Subroutines and Ampersands</a>		
Subroutine Prototypes	An older Perl feature. Clashes with subroutine signatures as of Perl v5.20. In <i>Perl &gt;= v5.20</i> put the <b>:prototype</b> attribute before subroutine prototype parenthesis.		
Subroutine signatures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Perl &gt;=5.36</i>: Stable</li> <li><i>Perl &gt;= 5.20</i>: Experimental</li> </ul> See: <a href="#">Use v5.20 subroutine signatures</a>	Exactly zero arguments	( )	Zero or 1 argument, no default, unnamed: (\$=)
	Zero or 1 argument, no default, named	(\$val=)	Zero or 1 argument, named, with default (\$val=1)
	exactly 1 named argument:	(\$val)	Exactly 2 arguments (\$v1, \$v2)
	2, 3 or 4 arguments no defaults:	(\$v1, \$v2, \$=, \$=)	2,3 or 4 arguments, 1 default: (\$v1, \$v2, \$v3='a', \$=)
	Two or more, any number of arguments.	(\$v1, \$v2, @)	Two or more arguments, remainders into a named array: (\$v1, \$v2, @rest)
	Two or more arguments: an even number	(\$v1, \$v2, %)	Two or more arguments, remainders into a named hash: (\$v1, \$v2, %rest)
	Class method	(\$class, ...)	Object method ( \$self, ...)
Variables in subroutines	global by default		
	<a href="#">my</a>	local, lexical scope, non persistent	
	<a href="#">state</a>	Local, lexical scope, persistent	<i>Perl &gt;= v5.10</i> Restriction: in <i>Perl &lt; v5.28</i> : array and hashes state cannot be initialized in list context.
	<a href="#">our</a>	creates a lexical scoped alias to a package variable	
	<a href="#">local</a>		
Returned value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The result of the last evaluated expression is implicitly returned</li> <li>The return operator can be used but it's not required unless used to change execution flow (return immediately from the subroutine).</li> <li>The subroutine can return a scalar in scalar context or a list if called in list context.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inside the subroutine, use the <a href="#">wantarray</a> function to determine the context of the subroutine call.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

## Perl 5 Built-in Functions ⚠️

Perl Functions Perl syntax	🗨️ To get information about a Perl function from the command line use the <b>perldoc -f</b> command. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To get information about <a href="#">print</a> use: <b>perldoc -f print</b></li> </ul>		
⚠️ Cautionary notes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">each</a> keyword is broken</li> <li>Use <a href="#">Var::Pairs</a> instead.</li> </ul>	Do NOT use the built-in <a href="#">each</a> . It is broken, as described by <a href="#">Damian Conway</a> in his <a href="#">Modern Perl Best Practice O'Reilly course</a> , section control structure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">each</a> is not re-entrant:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nested loops of each over the same hash does not work as expected and will create infinite loop since the nested loop each juts iterates from where the first loop each left it.</li> <li>Exiting the loop leaves the state of the each internal pointer at the current location.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you use each on the same hash later it will resume from where it left, it will not start form the beginning.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

## Perl 5 Modules ⚠️

Perl Modules			
Perl core modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to detect where a module is installed : <code>perldoc -l Module</code></li> </ul>		
Modules <a href="#">@perltutorial Modules</a>	<a href="#">do</a>	Looks for the module file by searching the <a href="#">@INC</a> path. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Perl finds the file, it places the code inside the calling program and executes it. Otherwise, Perl will skip the do statement silently.</li> </ul>	
Using simple modules ⚠️	<a href="#">require</a>	Loads the module file once. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the <a href="#">require</a> for the same file appears twice, Perl ignores it. Perl will issue an error message if it cannot find the file.</li> </ul>	
	<a href="#">use</a>	Similar to <a href="#">require</a> except that Perl applies it before the program starts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Therefore the <a href="#">use</a> statement cannot be invoked inside conditional statements such as if-else. Used often to include a module in a program.</li> </ul>	

## PerlTidy formatting control ⚠️

perltidy option	Option	Impact
indentation style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-bl,</li> <li>--opening-brace-on-new-line</li> <li>--brace-left</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without this option (the default) the code indentation style selected is <b>K&amp;R style</b>.</li> <li>With this option, the indentation style is <b>Allman/BSD style</b>.</li> </ul>