

GNU grep cheatsheet

Usage

```
grep <options> pattern <file...>
```

Matching options

```
-e, --regexp=PATTERN
-f, --file=FILE
-i, --ignore-case
-v, --invert-match
-w, --word-regexp
-x, --line-regexp
```

Pattern options

```
-F, --fixed-strings # list of fixed strings
-G, --basic-regexp  # basic regular expression (default)
-E, --extended-regexp # extended regular expression
-P, --perl-regexp    # perl compatible regular expression
```

Expressions

Basic Regular Expressions (BRE)
<p>In BRE, these characters have a special meaning unless they are escaped with a backslash:</p> <p>^ \$. * [] \</p> <p>However, these characters do not have any special meaning unless they are escaped with a backslash:</p> <p>? + { } ()</p>
Extended Regular Expressions (ERE)
<p>ERE gives all of these characters a special meaning unless they are escaped with a backslash:</p> <p>^ \$. * + ? [] () { }</p>
Perl Compatible Regular Expressions (PCRE)
<p>PCRE has even more options such as additional anchors and character classes, lookahead/lookbehind, conditional expressions, comments, and more. See the regexp cheatsheet.</p>

Output Options

```
-c, --count # print the count of matching lines. su
--color[=WHEN] # applies color to the matches. WHEN is
-m, --max-count=NUM # stop reading after max count is reach
-o, --only-matching # only print the matched part of a line
-q, --quiet, --silent
-s, --no-messages # suppress error messages about nonexis
```

Context Options

```
-B NUM, --before-context=NUM # print NUM lines before a matc
-A NUM, --after-context=NUM # print NUM lines after a match
-C NUM, -NUM, --context=NUM # print NUM lines before and af
```

Examples

```
# Case insensitive: match any line in foo.txt
# that contains "bar"
grep -i bar foo.txt


# match any line in bar.txt that contains
# either "foo" or "oof"
grep -E "foo|oof" bar.txt

# match anything that resembles a URL in
# foo.txt and only print out the match
grep -oE "https?://((\w+[_-]?)+\.\.?)+ " foo.txt

# can also be used with pipes:
# match any line that contains "export" in
# .bash_profile, pipe to another grep that
# matches any of the first set of matches
# containing "PATH"
grep "export" .bash_profile | grep "PATH"

# follow the tail of server.log, pipe to grep
# and print out any line that contains "error"
# and include 5 lines of context
tail -f server.log | grep -iC 5 error
```



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