

# Bash scripting cheatsheet

## Introduction

This is a quick reference to getting started with Bash scripting.

### Learn bash in y minutes

(learnxinyminutes.com)

### Bash Guide

(mywiki.woledge.org)

### Bash Hackers Wiki

(wiki.bash-hackers.org)

## Example

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash

NAME="John"
echo "Hello $NAME!"
```

## Variables

```
NAME="John"
echo $NAME
echo "$NAME"
echo "${NAME}!"
```

## String quotes

```
NAME="John"
echo "Hi $NAME"    #=> Hi John
echo 'Hi $NAME'    #=> Hi $NAME
```

## Shell execution

```
echo "I'm in $"
echo "I'm in `"`
# Same
```

## Functions

```
get_name() {
  echo "John"
}

echo "You are $(get_name)"
```

## Conditional execution

```
commit && git push
commit || echo "Commit failed"
```

See [Command su](#)

## Strict mode

## Conditionals

```
if [[ -z "$str"
  echo "String"
elif [[ -n "$s
```

## Brace expansion

See: [Functions](#)

```
echo {A,B}.js
```

```
{A,B}
```

Same as A B

```
{A,B}.js
```

Same as A.js B.js

```
{1..5}
```

Same as 1 2 3 4 5

See: [Brace expansion](#)

```
set -euo pipefail
```

```
IFS=$'\n\t'
```

Unofficial bash strict mode

```
echo "String"
```

Conditionals

## # Parameter expansions

### Basics

```
name="John"
echo ${name}
echo ${name/J/j}    #=> "john" (substitution)
echo ${name:0:2}    #=> "Jo" (slicing)
echo ${name::2}     #=> "Jo" (slicing)
echo ${name::-1}    #=> "Joh" (slicing)
echo ${name:(-1)}   #=> "n" (slicing from right)
echo ${name:(-2):1} #=> "h" (slicing from right)
```

### Substitution

```
${F00%suffix}
```

Remove s

```
${F00#prefix}
```

Remove p

```
${F00%%suffix}
```

Remove long s

```
${F00##prefix}
```

Remove long p

### Comments

```
# Single line
```

```
: '
This is a
multi line
comment
'
```

<pre>echo \${food:-Cake}  #=&gt; \$food or "Cake"</pre>
<pre>length=2 echo \${name:0:length}  #=&gt; "Jo"</pre>
<p>See: <a href="#">Parameter expansion</a></p>
<pre>STR="/path/to/foo.cpp" echo \${STR%.cpp}      # /path/to/foo echo \${STR%.cpp}.o    # /path/to/foo.o echo \${STR%/*}        # /path/to  echo \${STR##*.}       # cpp (extension) echo \${STR##*/}       # foo.cpp (basepath)  echo \${STR#*/}        # path/to/foo.cpp echo \${STR##*/}       # foo.cpp  echo \${STR/foo/bar}   # /path/to/bar.cpp</pre>
<pre>STR="Hello world" echo \${STR:6:5}      # "world" echo \${STR: -5:5}    # "world"</pre>
<pre>SRC="/path/to/foo.cpp" BASE=\${SRC##*/}      #=&gt; "foo.cpp" (basepath) DIR=\${SRC%\$BASE}     #=&gt; "/path/to/" (dirpath)</pre>

Default values	Replace first match	Substitution
<code>\${F00:-val}</code>	<code>\$F00, or val if unset (or null)</code>	<code>"HELLO wor</code>
<code>\${F00:=val}</code>	<code>Set \$F00 to val if unset (or null)</code>	<code>\${STR,}</code> <code>\${STR,,}</code>
<code>\${F00:+val}</code>	<code>val if \$F00 is set (and not null)</code>	<code>"hello wor</code>
<code>\${F00:?message}</code>	<code>Show error message and exit if \$F00 is unset (or null)</code>	<code>\${STR^}</code> <code>\${STR^^}</code>
<p>Omitting the <code>:</code> removes the (non)nullity checks, e.g. <code>\${F00-val}</code> expands to <code>val</code> if unset otherwise <code>\$F00</code>.</p>		

## # Loops

## Basic for loop

```
for i in /etc/rc.*; do
  echo $i
done
```

## C-like for loop

```
for ((i = 0 ; i < 100 ; i++)); do
  echo $i
done
```

## Ranges

```
for i in {1..5}
  echo "welc
done
```

## Reading lines

```
cat file.txt | while read line; do
  echo $line
done
```

## Forever

```
while true; do
  ...
done
```

With step size

```
for i in {5..5}
  echo "welc
```

## # Functions

## Defining functions

```
myfunc() {
  echo "hello $1"
}
```

```
# Same as above (alternate syntax)
function myfunc() {
  echo "hello $1"
}
```

## Returning values

```
myfunc() {
  local myresult='some value'
  echo $myresult
}
```

```
result="$(myfunc)"
```

## Arguments

## Raising errors

```
myfunc() {
  return 1
}
```

```
if myfunc; then
  echo "succes
else
  echo "failur
fi
```

```
myfunc "John"
```

\$#	Number of arguments
-----	---------------------

\$*	All positional arguments (as a single word)
-----	---

\$@	All positional arguments (as separate strings)
-----	--

\$1	First argument
-----	----------------

\$_	Last argument of the previous command
-----	---------------------------------------

**Note:** \$@ and \$\* must be quoted in order to perform as described. Otherwise, they do exactly the same thing (arguments as separate strings).

See [Special parameters](#).

## # Conditionals

### Conditions

Note that `[[` is actually a command/program that returns either 0 (true) or 1 (false). Any program that obeys the same logic (like `base utils`, such as `grep(1)` or `ping(1)`) can be used as conditionals; see examples.

```
[[ -z STRING ]]
```

Empty string

### File conditions

```
[[ -e FILE ]]
```

Exists

```
[[ -r FILE ]]
```

Readable

```
[[ -h FILE ]]
```

Symlink

```
[[ -d FILE ]]
```

Directory

### Example

<code>[[ -n STRING ]]</code>	Not empty string	<code>[[ -w FILE ]]</code>	Writable	<pre># String if [[ -z "\$string" ]] then     echo "String is empty" elif [[ -n "\$string" ]] then     echo "String is not empty" else     echo "This is not a string" fi</pre>
<code>[[ STRING == STRING ]]</code>	Equal	<code>[[ -s FILE ]]</code>	Size is > 0 bytes	
<code>[[ STRING != STRING ]]</code>	Not Equal	<code>[[ -f FILE ]]</code>	File exists and is a regular file	
<code>[[ NUM -eq NUM ]]</code>	Equal	<code>[[ -x FILE ]]</code>	Executable	
<code>[[ NUM -ne NUM ]]</code>	Not Equal	<code>[[ FILE1 -nt FILE2 ]]</code>	1 is more recent than 2	
<code>[[ NUM -lt NUM ]]</code>	Less than	<code>[[ FILE1 -ot FILE2 ]]</code>	2 is more recent than 1	
<code>[[ NUM -le NUM ]]</code>	Less than or equal	<code>[[ FILE1 -ef FILE2 ]]</code>	Same file	
<code>[[ NUM -gt NUM ]]</code>	Greater than			<pre># Combinations if [[ X &amp;&amp; Y ]] then     ... fi</pre>
<code>[[ NUM -ge NUM ]]</code>	Greater than or equal			
<code>[[ STRING =~ STRING ]]</code>	Regex			
<code>(( NUM &lt; NUM ))</code>	Numeric conditions			<pre># Equal if [[ "\$A" == "\$B" ]] then     ... fi</pre>
More conditions				
<code>[[ -o noclobber ]]</code>	If OPTIONNAME is enabled			<pre># Regex if [[ "A" =~ .*.B ]] then     ... fi</pre>
<code>[[ ! EXPR ]]</code>	Not			<pre>if (( \$a &lt; \$b )) then     echo "\$a is less than \$b" fi</pre>
<code>[[ X &amp;&amp; Y ]]</code>	And			
<code>[[ X    Y ]]</code>	Or			

# # Arrays

## Defining arrays

```
Fruits=('Apple' 'Banana' 'Orange')
```

```
Fruits[0]="Apple"
Fruits[1]="Banana"
Fruits[2]="Orange"
```

## Operations

```
Fruits=("${Fruits[@]}" "Watermelon")    # Push
Fruits+=('Watermelon')                  # Also Push
Fruits=( ${Fruits[@]/Ap*/} )             # Remove by regex
unset Fruits[2]                         # Remove one item
Fruits=("${Fruits[@]}")                  # Duplicate
Fruits=("${Fruits[@]}" "${Veggies[@]}") # Concatenate
lines=(`cat "logfile"`)                 # Read from file
```

## Working with arrays

```
echo ${Fruits[0]}           # Element #0
echo ${Fruits[-1]}          # Last element
echo ${Fruits[@]}           # All elements
echo ${#Fruits[@]}          # Number of elements
echo ${#Fruits}             # String length
echo ${#Fruits[3]}          # String length
echo ${Fruits[@]:3:2}       # Range (from index 3, 2 elements)
echo ${!Fruits[@]}          # Keys of all elements
```

## Iteration

```
for i in "${arrayName[@]"; do
    echo $i
done
```

# # Dictionaries

## Defining

## Working with dictionaries

## Iteration

```
declare -A sounds
```

```
sounds[dog]="bark"  
sounds[cow]="moo"  
sounds[bird]="tweet"  
sounds[wolf]="howl"
```

Declares sound as a Dictionary object (aka associative array).

```
echo ${sounds[dog]} # Dog's sound  
echo ${sounds[@]}  # All values  
echo ${!sounds[@]} # All keys  
echo ${#sounds[@]} # Number of elements  
unset sounds[dog]  # Delete dog
```

Iterate over values

```
for val in "${  
    echo $val  
done
```

Iterate over keys

```
for key in "${  
    echo $key  
done
```

## # Options

### Options

```
set -o noclobber # Avoid overlay files (echo "hi" > foo)  
set -o errexit   # Used to exit upon error, avoiding casc  
set -o pipefail  # Unveils hidden failures  
set -o nounset   # Exposes unset variables
```

### Glob options

```
shopt -s nullglob # Non-matching globs  
shopt -s failglob # Non-matching globs  
shopt -s nocaseglob # Case insensitive g  
shopt -s dotglob   # Wildcards match dc  
shopt -s globstar  # Allow ** for recur
```

Set GLOBIGNORE as a colon-separated list of patte  
removed from glob matches.



# # History

## Commands

<code>history</code>	Show history
<code>shopt -s histverify</code>	Don't execute expanded result immediately

## Operations

<code>!!</code>	Execute last command again
<code>!!:s/&lt;FROM&gt;/&lt;TO&gt;/</code>	Replace first occurrence of <FROM> to <TO> in most recent command
<code>!!:gs/&lt;FROM&gt;/&lt;TO&gt;/</code>	Replace all occurrences of <FROM> to <TO> in most recent command
<code>!\$:t</code>	Expand only basename from last parameter of most recent command
<code>!\$:h</code>	Expand only directory from last parameter of most recent command
<code>!!</code> and <code>!\$</code> can be replaced with any valid expansion.	

## Expansions

<code>!\$</code>	Expand last parameter of most
<code>!*</code>	Expand all parameters of most
<code>!-n</code>	Expand nth most
<code>!n</code>	Expand nth co
<code>!&lt;command&gt;</code>	Expand most recent invoc

## Slices

<code>!!:n</code>	Expand only nth token from most (command is 0; fi
<code>!^</code>	Expand first argument from most
<code>!\$</code>	Expand last token from most
<code>!!:n-m</code>	Expand range of tokens from most
<code>!!:n-\$</code>	Expand nth token to last from most
<code>!!</code> can be replaced with any valid expansion i.e. <code>!c</code>	

# # Miscellaneous

## Numeric calculations

```
=$((a + 200))      # Add 200 to $a
```

```
=$((RANDOM%200))    # Random number 0..199
```

## Inspecting commands

```
command -V cd
#=> "cd is a function/alias/whatever"
```

## Trap errors

```
trap 'echo Error at about $LINENO' ERR
```

or

```
traperr() {
  echo "ERROR: ${BASH_SOURCE[1]} at about ${BASH_LINENO[0]}"
}
```

```
set -o errtrace
trap traperr ERR
```

## Subshells

```
(cd somedir; echo "I'm now in $PWD")
pwd # still in first directory
```

## Redirection

```
python hello.py > output.txt      # stdout to file
python hello.py >> output.txt      # stdout to file
python hello.py 2> error.log       # stderr to file
python hello.py 2>&1                # stderr to stdout
python hello.py 2>/dev/null        # stderr to null
python hello.py &>/dev/null         # stdout to null
```

```
python hello.py < foo.txt          # feed from file
diff <(ls -r) <(ls)                # Compare two files
```

## Case/switch

```
case "$1" in
  start | up)
    vagrant up
    ;;
  *)
    echo "Usage: $0 {start|stop|ssh}"
```

## Example 1: Ping and's result

<pre>if ping -c 1 google.com; then   echo "It appears you have a working internet connection" fi</pre>	
<code>\$\$</code>	PID of shell
<code>\$0</code>	Filename of the shell script
<code>\$_</code>	Last argument of the previous command
<code>\${PIPESTATUS[n]}</code>	return value of piped commands (array)
See <a href="#">Special parameters</a> .	
<code>[ :space:]</code>	All whitespace
<code>[ :alpha:]</code>	All letters
<code>[ :alnum:]</code>	All letters and digits
Example	
<pre>echo "Welcome To Devhints"   tr [:lower:] [:upper:] WELCOME TO DEVHINTS</pre>	

## Example 2: Find file in directory

<pre>if grep -q 'foo' ~/.bash_history; then   echo "You appear to have typed 'foo' in" fi</pre>	
<pre>pwd # /home/user/foo</pre>	
<pre>shift, string=\$1 ;; -f   --flag )   flag=1 ;; esac; shift; done if [[ "\$1" == '--' ]]; then shift; fi</pre>	



## # Also see

[Bash-hackers wiki](#) (bash-hackers.org)

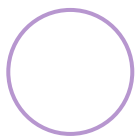
[Shell vars](#) (bash-hackers.org)

[Learn bash in y minutes](#) (learnxinyminutes.com)

[Bash Guide](#) (mywiki.woledge.org)

[ShellCheck](#) (shellcheck.net)

devhints.io / Search 356+ cheatsheets



Over 356 curated  
cheatsheets, by

### Other CLI cheatsheets

**Cron**  
cheatsheet

**Homebrew**  
cheatsheet

[httpie](#)

[adb \(Android](#)

### Top cheatsheets

**Elixir**  
cheatsheet

**ES2015+**  
cheatsheet

[React.js](#)

[Vimdiff](#)

developers for  
developers.

Devhints home

cheatsheet

**Debug Bridge)**  
cheatsheet

cheatsheet

cheatsheet

**composer**  
cheatsheet

**Fish shell**  
cheatsheet

**Vim**  
cheatsheet

**Vim scripting**  
cheatsheet