**Exit**

**Terminate the Shell** The exit and logout commands both terminate the shell. The exit  
command terminates any shell, but the logout command terminates only *login shells*.  
Login shells are shell programs that are launched automatically when you initiate a textmode login as opposed to those that run in xterm windows or other terminal emulators.

You can terminate a shell using the exit command. You may optionally give an exit code as a parameter. If you are running your shell in a terminal window on a graphical desktop, your window will close. Similarly, if you have connected to a remote system using ssh or telnet (for example), your connection will end. In the bash shell, you can also hold the **Ctrl** key and press the **d** key to exit.

Let's look at another control operator. If you enclose a command or a command list in parentheses, then the command or sequence is executed in a sub shell, so the exit command exits the sub shell rather than exiting the shell you are working in. Listing 6 shows a simple example in conjunction with && and || and two different exit codes.

**Listing 6. Subshells and sequences**

[ian@atticf20 ~]$ (echo In subshell; exit 0) && echo OK || echo Bad exit

In subshell

OK

[ian@atticf20 ~]$ (echo In subshell; exit 4) && echo OK || echo Bad exit

In subshell

Bad exit