NAME

      test - check file types and compare values

SYNOPSIS

      test *EXPRESSION*

      test

      [*EXPRESSION*]

      [ ]

      [*OPTION*

DESCRIPTION

      Exit with the status determined by EXPRESSION.

      --help display this help and exit

      --version

            output version information and exit

      An omitted EXPRESSION defaults to false. Otherwise, EXPRESSION is true or false and sets exit status. It is one of:

      (EXPRESSION)

            EXPRESSION is true

      ! EXPRESSION

            EXPRESSION is false

      EXPRESSION1 **-a** EXPRESSION2

            both EXPRESSION1 and EXPRESSION2 are true

      EXPRESSION1 **-o** EXPRESSION2

            either EXPRESSION1 or EXPRESSION2 is true

      -n STRING

            the length of STRING is nonzero

      STRING

            equivalent to **-n** STRING

      -z STRING

            the length of STRING is zero

      STRING1 = STRING2

            the strings are equal

      STRING1 != STRING2

            the strings are not equal

      INTEGER1 **-eq** INTEGER2

            INTEGER1 is equal to INTEGER2

      INTEGER1 **-ge** INTEGER2

            INTEGER1 is greater than or equal to INTEGER2

      INTEGER1 **-gt** INTEGER2

            INTEGER1 is greater than INTEGER2

      INTEGER1 **-le** INTEGER2

            INTEGER1 is less than or equal to INTEGER2

      INTEGER1 **-lt** INTEGER2

            INTEGER1 is less than INTEGER2

      INTEGER1 **-ne** INTEGER2

            INTEGER1 is not equal to INTEGER2

FILE1 **-ef** FILE2
>   FILE1 and FILE2 have the same device and inode numbers

FILE1 **-nt** FILE2
>   FILE1 is newer (modification date) than FILE2

FILE1 **-ot** FILE2
>   FILE1 is older than FILE2

-b FILE
>   FILE exists and is block special

-c FILE
>   FILE exists and is character special

-d FILE
>   FILE exists and is a directory

-e FILE
>   FILE exists

-f FILE
>   FILE exists and is a regular file

-g FILE
>   FILE exists and is set-group-ID

-G FILE
>   FILE exists and is owned by the effective group ID

-h FILE
>   FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **-L**)

-k FILE
>   FILE exists and has its sticky bit set

-L FILE
>   FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **-h**)

-O FILE
>   FILE exists and is owned by the effective user ID

-p FILE
>   FILE exists and is a named pipe

-r FILE
>   FILE exists and read permission is granted

-s FILE
>   FILE exists and has a size greater than zero

-S FILE
>   FILE exists and is a socket

-t FD   file descriptor FD is opened on a terminal

-u FILE
>   FILE exists and its set-user-ID bit is set

-w FILE
>   FILE exists and write permission is granted

-x FILE
>   FILE exists and execute (or search) permission is granted

Except for **-h** and **-L**, all FILE-related tests dereference symbolic links. Beware that parentheses need to be escaped (e.g., by backslashes) for shells. INTEGER may also be **-l** STRING, which evaluates to the length of STRING.

NOTE: [honors the **--help** and **--version** options, but test does not. test treats each of those as it treats any other nonempty STRING.

NOTE: your shell may have its own version of test and/or [, which usually supersedes the version described here. Please refer to your shell's documentation for details about the options it supports.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
Report [translation bugs to <http://translationproject.org/team/>

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SEE ALSO

Full documentation at: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/[>
or available locally via: info (coreutils) test invocation