

**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

Written by Kevin Braunsdorf and Matthew Bradburn.

## 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