

NAME

look — display lines beginning with a given string

SYNOPSIS

look [**-bdf**] [**-t** *termchar*] *string* [*file* ...]

DESCRIPTION

The **look** utility displays any lines in *file* which contain *string* as a prefix.

If *file* is not specified, the file `/usr/share/dict/words` is used, only alphanumeric characters are compared and the case of alphabetic characters is ignored.

The following options are available:

- b** Use a binary search on the given word list. If you are ignoring case with **-f** or ignoring non-alphanumeric characters with **-d**, the file must be sorted in the same way. Please note that these options are the default if no filename is given. See `sort(1)` for more information on sorting files.
- d** Dictionary character set and order, i.e., only alphanumeric characters are compared.
- f** Ignore the case of alphabetic characters.
- t** Specify a string termination character, i.e., only the characters in *string* up to and including the first occurrence of *termchar* are compared.

ENVIRONMENT

The `LANG`, `LC_ALL` and `LC_CTYPE` environment variables affect the execution of the **look** utility. Their effect is described in `environ(7)`.

FILES

`/usr/share/dict/words` the dictionary

EXIT STATUS

The **look** utility exits 0 if one or more lines were found and displayed, 1 if no lines were found, and >1 if an error occurred.

COMPATIBILITY

The original manual page stated that tabs and blank characters participated in comparisons when the **-d** option was specified. This was incorrect and the current man page matches the historic implementation.

look uses a linear search by default instead of a binary search, which is what most other implementations use by default.

SEE ALSO

`grep(1)`, `sort(1)`

HISTORY

A **look** utility appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX.

BUGS

Lines are not compared according to the current locale's collating order. Input files must be sorted with `LC_COLLATE` set to 'C'.