## NAME

**basename**, **dirname** - return filename or directory portion of pathname

## SYNOPSIS

**basename** *string* [*suffix*]
**basename** [**-a**] [**-s** *suffix*] *string* [...]
**dirname** *string* [...]

## DESCRIPTION

The **basename** utility deletes any prefix ending with the last slash '/' character present in *string* (after first stripping trailing slashes), and a *suffix*, if given. The *suffix* is not stripped if it is identical to the remaining characters in *string*. The resulting filename is written to the standard output. A non-existent suffix is ignored. If **-a** is specified, then every argument is treated as a *string* as if **basename** were invoked with just one argument. If **-s** is specified, then the *suffix* is taken as its argument, and all other arguments are treated as a *string*.

The **dirname** utility deletes the filename portion, beginning with the last slash '/' character to the end of *string* (after first stripping trailing slashes), and writes the result to the standard output.

## EXIT STATUS

The **basename** and **dirname** utilities exit 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

## EXAMPLES

The following line sets the shell variable FOO to *usr/bin*.

    FOO=`dirname /usr/bin/trail`

## SEE ALSO

csh(1), sh(1), basename(3), dirname(3)

## STANDARDS

The **basename** and **dirname** utilities are expected to be IEEE Std 1003.2 ("POSIX.2") compatible.

## HISTORY

The **basename** utility first appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX. The **dirname** utility first appeared in AT&T System III UNIX.