

**NAME**

**builtin, !, %, ., :, @, [, {, }, alias, alloc, bg, bind, bindkey, break, breaksw, builtins, case, cd, chdir, command, complete, continue, default, dirs, do, done, echo, echotc, elif, else, end, endif, endsw, esac, eval, exec, exit, export, false, fc, fg, filetest, fi, for, foreach, getopts, glob, goto, hash, hashstat, history, hup, if, jobid, jobs, kill, limit, local, log, login, logout, ls-F, nice, nohup, notify, onintr, popd, printenv, printf, pushd, pwd, read, readonly, rehash, repeat, return, sched, set, setenv, settc, setty, setvar, shift, source, stop, suspend, switch, telltc, test, then, time, times, trap, true, type, ulimit, umask, unalias, uncomplete, unhash, unlimit, unset, unsetenv, until, wait, where, which, while** - shell built-in commands

**SYNOPSIS**

See the built-in command description in the appropriate shell manual page.

**DESCRIPTION**

Shell builtin commands are commands that can be executed within the running shell's process. Note that, in the case of `cs(1)` builtin commands, the command is executed in a subshell if it occurs as any component of a pipeline except the last.

If a command specified to the shell contains a slash `/`, the shell will not execute a builtin command, even if the last component of the specified command matches the name of a builtin command. Thus, while specifying `echo` causes a builtin command to be executed under shells that support the **echo** builtin command, specifying `/bin/echo` or `./echo` does not.

While some builtin commands may exist in more than one shell, their operation may be different under each shell which supports them. Below is a table which lists shell builtin commands, the standard shells that support them and whether they exist as standalone utilities.

Only builtin commands for the `cs(1)` and `sh(1)` shells are listed here. Consult a shell's manual page for details on the operation its builtin commands. Beware that the `sh(1)` manual page, at least, calls some of these commands "built-in commands" and some of them "reserved words". Users of other shells may need to consult an `info(1)` page or other sources of documentation.

Commands marked "No\*\*" under *External* do exist externally, but are implemented as scripts using a builtin command of the same name.

<i>Command</i>	<i>External</i>	<code>cs(1)</code>	<code>sh(1)</code>
<b>!</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>%</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>.</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>:</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>@</b>	No	Yes	No

<b>[</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>{</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>}</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>alias</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>alloc</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>bg</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>bind</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>bindkey</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>break</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>breaksw</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>builtin</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>builtins</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>case</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>cd</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>chdir</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>command</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>complete</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>continue</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>default</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>dirs</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>do</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>done</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>echo</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>echotc</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>elif</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>else</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>end</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>endif</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>endsw</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>esac</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>eval</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>exec</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>exit</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>export</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>false</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>fc</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>fg</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>filetest</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>fi</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>for</b>	No	No	Yes

<b>foreach</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>getopts</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>glob</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>goto</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>hash</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>hashstat</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>history</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>hup</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>if</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>jobid</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>jobs</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>kill</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>limit</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>local</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>log</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>login</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>logout</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>ls-F</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>nice</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>nohup</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>notify</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>onintr</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>popd</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>printenv</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>printf</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>pushd</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>pwd</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>read</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>readonly</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>rehash</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>repeat</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>return</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>sched</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>set</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>setenv</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>settc</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>setty</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>setvar</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>shift</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>source</b>	No	Yes	No

<b>stop</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>suspend</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>switch</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>telltc</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>test</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>then</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>time</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>times</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>trap</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>true</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>type</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>ulimit</b>	No**	No	Yes
<b>umask</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>unalias</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>uncomplete</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>unhash</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>unlimit</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>unset</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>unsetenv</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>until</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>wait</b>	No**	Yes	Yes
<b>where</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>which</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>while</b>	No	Yes	Yes

**SEE ALSO**

csh(1), echo(1), false(1), info(1), kill(1), login(1), nice(1), nohup(1), printenv(1), printf(1), pwd(1), sh(1), test(1), time(1), true(1), which(1)

**HISTORY**

The **builtin** manual page first appeared in FreeBSD 3.4.

**AUTHORS**

This manual page was written by Sheldon Hearn <[sheldonh@FreeBSD.org](mailto:sheldonh@FreeBSD.org)>.