

NAME

perlcheat - Perl 5 Cheat Sheet

DESCRIPTION

This 'cheat sheet' is a handy reference, meant for beginning Perl programmers. Not everything is mentioned, but 195 features may already be overwhelming.

The sheet

CONTEXTS SIGILS ref ARRAYS HASHES
 void \$scalar SCALAR @array %hash
 scalar @array ARRAY @array[0, 2] @hash{'a', 'b'}
 list %hash HASH \$array[0] \$hash{'a'}
 &sub CODE
 *glob GLOB SCALAR VALUES
 FORMAT number, string, ref, glob, undef

REFERENCES

\ reference \$\$foo[1] aka \$foo->[1]
 \$@%&* dereference \$\$foo{bar} aka \$foo->{bar}
 [] anon. arrayref \${\$foo[1]}[2] aka \$foo->[1]->[2]
 {} anon. hashref \${\$foo[1]}[2] aka \$foo->[1][2]
 \() list of refs

SYNTAX

OPERATOR PRECEDENCE foreach (LIST) { } for (a;b;c) { }
 -> while (e) { } until (e) { }
 ++ -- if (e) { } elsif (e) { } else { }
 ** unless (e) { } elsif (e) { } else { }
 ! ~ \ u+ u- given (e) { when (e) { } default { } }
 =~ !~
 * / % x NUMBERS vs STRINGS FALSE vs TRUE
 + - . = = undef, "", 0, "0"
 <<>> + . anything else
 named uops == != eq ne
 <> <= >= lt gt le ge <> <= >= lt gt le ge
 == != <=> eq ne cmp ~~ <=> cmp
 &
 | ^ REGEX MODIFIERS REGEX METACHARS
 && /i case insensitive ^ string begin
 || // /m line based ^\$ \$ str end (bfr \n)
 /s . includes \n + one or more
 ?: /x /xx ign. wh.space * zero or more

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= += last goto /p preserve      ?    zero or one
, =>      /a ASCII  /aa safe {3,7} repeat in range
list ops  /l locale /d dual |    alternation
not       /u Unicode      []    character class
and       /e evaluate /ee rpts \b  boundary
or xor    /g global       \z    string end
         /o compile pat once ()   capture
DEBUG                                (?p) no capture
-MO=Deparse  REGEX CHARCLASSES (?#t) comment
-MO=Terse    . [^\n]          (?=p) ZW pos ahead
-D##        \s whitespace    (?!p) ZW neg ahead
-d:Trace    \w word chars    (?<=p) ZW pos behind \K
           \d digits         (?<!p) ZW neg behind
CONFIGURATION \pP named property (?>p) no backtrack
perl -V:ivsize \h horiz.wh.space (?|p|p)branch reset
           \R linebreak     (?<n>p)named capture
           \S \W \D \H negate \g{n} ref to named cap
           \K keep left part
FUNCTION RETURN LISTS
stat localtime caller SPECIAL VARIABLES
0 dev 0 second 0 package $_ default variable
1 ino 1 minute 1 filename $0 program name
2 mode 2 hour 2 line $/ input separator
3 nlink 3 day 3 subroutine $\ output separator
4 uid 4 month-1 4 hasargs $| autoflush
5 gid 5 year-1900 5 wantarray $! sys/libcall error
6 rdev 6 weekday 6 evaltext $@ eval error
7 size 7 yearday 7 is_require $$ process ID
8 atime 8 is_dst 8 hints $. line number
9 mtime          9 bitmask @ARGV command line args
10 ctime         10 hinthash @INC include paths
11 blksize       3..10 only @_ subroutine args
12 blks          with EXPR %ENV environment

```

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first version of this document appeared on Perl Monks, where several people had useful suggestions. Thank you, Perl Monks.

A special thanks to Damian Conway, who didn't only suggest important changes, but also took the time to count the number of listed features and make a Raku version to show that Perl will stay Perl.

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SEE ALSO

- ⊕ <https://perlmonks.org/?node_id=216602> - the original PM post
- ⊕ <https://perlmonks.org/?node_id=238031> - Damian Conway's Raku version
- ⊕ <<https://juerd.nl/site.plp/perlcheat>> - home of the Perl Cheat Sheet