

Usage

Grep standard output (i.e. a stream of text)

```
grep [-options] 'string'
```

Grep the content of a file

```
grep [-options] 'string' filename
```

Wildcards are accepted in *filename*.

General Regular Expression Processor

| Operation | Option | Example |
|---|---------------|---|
| Find a string in 1 or more files | | grep 'string' filename1 filename2 ... filename <i>n</i> |
| Case insensitive search | i | grep -i 'string' filename |
| Use regular expressions (regex) | | grep 'regex' filename |
| Look for words | w | grep -w 'word' filename |
| Display <i>n</i> lines after matching string | A | grep -A <i>n</i> 'string' filename |
| Display <i>n</i> lines before matching string | B | grep -B <i>n</i> 'string' filename |
| Display <i>n</i> lines around matching string | C | grep -C <i>n</i> 'string' filename |
| Recursive grep | r | grep -r 'hackers-club.cn' /var/log/apache2/archives/ |
| Return all lines which don't match the pattern | v | grep -v 'warning' /var/log/syslog |
| Grep several strings in one go | e | grep -e 'string1' -e 'string2' filename |
| Count results | c | grep -c 'error' /var/log/syslog |
| Display filename | l | grep -l 'string' /var/log/* |
| Only show the matching part of the string | o | grep -o 'string' filename |
| Show line number | n | grep -n 'string' filename |
| Find "John" and "James" independently from the case | E and i and w | grep -E -i -w 'john james' /etc/passwd |



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Published 4th May, 2015.
 Last updated 4th May, 2015.
 Page 1 of 2.

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Regular expressions : wildcards

| | |
|-------------|--|
| . | Any character. |
| ? | Optional and can only occur once. |
| * | Optional and can occur more than once. |
| + | Required and can occur more than once. |
| {n} | Previous item appears exactly <i>n</i> times. |
| {n,} | Previous item appears <i>n</i> times or more. |
| {,m} | Previous item appears <i>n</i> times maximum. |
| {n,m} | Previous item appears between <i>n</i> and <i>m</i> times. |
| [:alpha:] | Any lower and upper case letter. |
| [:digit:] | Any number. |
| [:alnum:] | Any lower and upper case letter or digit. |
| [:space:] | Any whitespace. |
| [A-Za-z] | Any lower and upper case letter. |
| [0-9] | Any number. |
| [0-9A-Za-z] | Any lower and upper case letter or digit. |

Regular expressions : anchors and positions

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| ^ | Beginning of line. | grep '^Once upon a time' /home/livres/lovestory.txt |
| \$ | End of line. | grep 'divorced.\$' /home/livres/lovestory.txt |
| ^\$ | Empty line. | |
| \< | Empty string before a word. | grep '\<pension\>' /home/livres/lovestory.txt |
| \> | Empty string after a word. | |

Characters to escape

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| \ | . |
| [| ^ |
| \$ | ' |
| * | - (start of line only) |

