

**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

= += 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 blksize 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](https://perlmonks.org/?node_id=216602)> - the original PM post
- ⊕ <[https://perlmonks.org/?node\\_id=238031](https://perlmonks.org/?node_id=238031)> - Damian Conway's Raku version
- ⊕ <<https://juerd.nl/site.plp/perlcheat>> - home of the Perl Cheat Sheet