

## 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            | ARRAYS                                 | HASHES                |
| void                   | \$scalar          | whole: @array                          | %hash                 |
| scalar                 | @array            | slice: @array[0, 2]                    | @hash{'a', 'b'}       |
| list                   | %hash             | element: \$array[0]                    | \$hash{'a'}           |
|                        | &sub              |  |                       |
|                        | *glob             | SCALAR VALUES                          |                       |
|                        |                   | number, string, reference, glob, undef |                       |
| REFERENCES             |                   |  |                       |
| \                      | references        | \$\$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      |  |                       |
|                        |                   | NUMBERS vs STRINGS                     | LINKS                 |
| OPERATOR PRECEDENCE    |                   | =                                      | perl.plover.com       |
| ->                     |                   | +                                      | search.cpan.org       |
| ++ --                  |                   | == !=                                  | eq ne cpan.org        |
| **                     |                   | < > <= >=                              | lt gt le ge pm.org    |
| ! ~ \ u+ u-            |                   | <=>                                    | cmp tpj.com           |
| =~ !~                  |                   |  | perldoc.com           |
| * / % x                |                   | SYNTAX                                 |                       |
| + - .                  |                   | for (LIST) { }, for (a;b;c) { }        |                       |
| << >>                  |                   | while ( ) { }, until ( ) { }           |                       |
| named uops             |                   | if ( ) { } elsif ( ) { } else { }      |                       |
| < > <= >= lt gt le ge  |                   | unless ( ) { } elsif ( ) { } else { }  |                       |
| == != <=> eq ne cmp ~~ |                   | for equals foreach (ALWAYS)            |                       |
| &                      |                   |  |                       |
| ^                      | REGEX METACHARS   | REGEX MODIFIERS                        |                       |
| &&                     | ^                 | string begin                           | /i case insens.       |
| //                     | \$                | str. end (before \n)                   | /m line based ^\$     |
| .. ...                 | +                 | one or more                            | /s . includes \n      |
| ?:                     | *                 | zero or more                           | /x ign. wh.space      |
| = += -= *= etc.        | ?                 | zero or one                            | /g global             |
| , =>                   | {3,7}             | repeat in range                        | /o compl pat. once    |
| list ops               | ()                | capture                                |                       |
| not                    | (?:)              | no capture                             | REGEX CHARCLASSES     |
| and                    | []                | character class                        | . == [^\n]            |
| or xor                 |                   | alternation                            | \s == whitespace      |
|                        | \b                | word boundary                          | \w == word characters |
|                        | \z                | string end                             | \d == digits          |
| DO                     |                   |  | \S, \W and \D negate  |
| use strict;            | DON'T             |  |                       |
| use warnings;          | "\$foo"           | LINKS                                  |                       |
| my \$var;              | \$\$variable_name | perl.com                               |                       |
| open() or die \$!;     | `\$userinput`     | use.perl.org                           |                       |
| use Modules;           | /\$userinput/     | perl.apache.org                        |                       |

| FUNCTION RETURN LISTS |             |              | SPECIAL VARIABLES |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| stat                  | localtime   | caller       | \$_               | default variable  |
| 0 dev                 | 0 second    | 0 package    | \$0               | program name      |
| 1 ino                 | 1 minute    | 1 filename   | \$/               | input separator   |
| 2 mode                | 2 hour      | 2 line       | \$\               | output separator  |
| 3 nlink               | 3 day       | 3 subroutine | \$                | autoflush         |
| 4 uid                 | 4 month-1   | 4 hasargs    | \$!               | sys/libcall error |
| 5 gid                 | 5 year-1900 | 5 wantarray  | \$_               | eval error        |
| 6 rdev                | 6 weekday   | 6 evaltext   | \$\$              | process ID        |
| 7 size                | 7 yearday   | 7 is_require | \$.               | line number       |
| 8 atime               | 8 is_dst    | 8 hints      | @ARGV             | command line args |
| 9 mtime               |             | 9 bitmask    | @INC              | include paths     |
| 10 ctime              | just use    |              | @_                | subroutine args   |
| 11 blksize            | POSIX::     | 3..9 only    | %ENV              | environment       |
| 12 blksize            | strftime!   | with EXPR    |                   |                   |

## 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 Perl 6 version to show that Perl will stay Perl.

## AUTHOR

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## SEE ALSO

- [http://perlmonks.org/?node\\_id=216602](http://perlmonks.org/?node_id=216602) - the original PM post
- [http://perlmonks.org/?node\\_id=238031](http://perlmonks.org/?node_id=238031) - Damian Conway's Perl 6 version
- <http://juerd.nl/site.plp/perlcheat> - home of the Perl Cheat Sheet