

## 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

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	just use		@INC	include paths
11 blksize	POSIX::	3..9 only	@_	subroutine args
12 blksize	strftime!	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 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)  
[http://perlmonks.org/?node\\_id=238031](http://perlmonks.org/?node_id=238031)  
<http://juerd.nl/site.plp/perlcheat>

the original PM post  
Damian Conway's Perl 6 version  
home of the Perl Cheat Sheet