

HEAD(1)

User Commands

HEAD(1)

## NAME

**head** - output the first part of files

## SYNOPSIS

**head** [OPTION]... [FILE]...

## DESCRIPTION

Print the first 10 lines of each FILE to standard output. With more than one FILE, precede each with a header giving the file name.

With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

**-c, --bytes=[-]NUM**

print the first NUM bytes of each file; with the leading '-',

print all but the last NUM bytes of each file

**-n, --lines=[-]NUM**

print the first NUM lines instead of the first 10; with the

leading '-', print all but the last NUM lines of each file

**-q, --quiet, --silent**

never print headers giving file names

**-v, --verbose**

always print headers giving file names

**-z, --zero-terminated**

line delimiter is NUL, not newline

**--help** display this help and exit

**--version**

output version information and exit

NUM may have a multiplier suffix: b 512, kB 1000, K 1024, MB 1000\*1000, M 1024\*1024, GB 1000\*1000\*1000, G 1024\*1024\*1024, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y, R, Q. Binary prefixes can be used, too: KiB=K, MiB=M, and so on.

## AUTHOR

Written by David MacKenzie and Jim Meyering.

## REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

# Linux UBUNTU Manual Pages

## COPYRIGHT

Copyright ? 2023 Free Software Foundation, Inc. License GPLv3+: GNU  
GPL version 3 or later <<https://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>>.

This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.

There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.

## SEE ALSO

`tail(1)`

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/head>>  
or available locally via: `info '(coreutils) head invocation'`

GNU coreutils 9.4

June 2025

HEAD(1)