



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'assert.3'

\$ man assert.3

assert(3) Library Functions Manual assert(3)

NAME

assert - abort the program if assertion is false

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <assert.h>

void assert(bool expression);
```

DESCRIPTION

This macro can help programmers find bugs in their programs, or handle exceptional cases via a crash that will produce limited debugging output.

If `expression` is false (i.e., compares equal to zero), `assert()` prints an error message to standard error and terminates the program by calling `abort(3)`. The error message includes the name of the file and function containing the `assert()` call, the source code line number of the call, and the text of the argument; something like:

```
prog: some_file.c:16: some_func: Assertion `val == 0' failed.
```

If the macro `NDEBUG` is defined at the moment `<assert.h>` was last included, the macro `assert()` generates no code, and hence does nothing at all. It is not recommended to define `NDEBUG` if using `assert()` to detect error conditions since the software may behave non-deterministically.

RETURN VALUE

No value is returned.

ATTRIBUTES

[illegible]

C11, POSIX.1-2008.

C89, C99, POSIX.1-2001.

BUGS

assert() is implemented as a macro; if the expression tested has side-effects, program behavior will be different depending on whether NDEBUG is defined. This may create Heisenbugs which go away when debugging is turned on.

abort(3), assert_perror(3), exit(3)

Linux man-pages 6.17 2026-02-08 assert(3)