



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'ed.1'

\$ man ed.1

ED(1) User Commands ED(1)

NAME

ed - line-oriented text editor

SYNOPSIS

ed [options] [[+line] file]

DESCRIPTION

GNU ed is a line-oriented text editor. It is used to create, display, modify and otherwise manipulate text files, both interactively and via shell scripts. A restricted version of ed, red, can only edit files in the current directory and cannot execute shell commands. Ed is the 'standard' text editor in the sense that it is the original editor for Unix, and thus widely available. For most purposes, however, it is superseded by full-screen editors.

The file name may be preceded by '+line', '+/RE', or '+?RE' to set the current line to the line number specified or to the first or last line matching the regular expression 'RE'.

Start edit by reading in 'file' if given. If 'file' begins with a '!', read output of shell command.

The environment variable LINES can be used to set the initial window size.

OPTIONS

-h, --help

display this help and exit

-V, --version

output version information and exit

-E, --extended-regexp

use extended regular expressions

-G, --traditional

run in compatibility mode

-I, --loose-exit-status

exit with 0 status even if a command fails

-p, --prompt=STRING

use STRING as an interactive prompt

-q, --quiet, --silent

suppress diagnostics written to stderr

-r, --restricted

run in restricted mode

-s, --script

suppress byte counts and '!' prompt

-v, --verbose

be verbose; equivalent to the 'H' command

--strip-trailing-cr

strip carriage returns at end of text lines

--unsafe-names

allow control characters in file names

EXIT STATUS

0 for a normal exit, 1 for environmental problems (invalid command-line options, memory exhausted, command failed, etc), 2 for problems with the input file (file not found, buffer modified, I/O errors), 3 for an internal consistency error (e.g., bug) which caused ed to panic.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to bug-ed@gnu.org

Ed home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/ed/ed.html>

General help using GNU software: <http://www.gnu.org/gethelp>

COPYRIGHT

Copyright ? 1994 Andrew L. Moore.

Copyright ? 2026 Antonio Diaz Diaz. License GPLv2+: GNU GPL version 2 or later

<<http://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

The full documentation for ed is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the info and ed programs are properly installed at your site, the command

```
info ed
```

should give you access to the complete manual.

GNU ed 1.22.4

January 2026

ED(1)