



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

\$ man look.1

LOOK(1) User Commands LOOK(1)

NAME

look - display lines beginning with a given string

SYNOPSIS

look [options] string [file]

DESCRIPTION

The look utility displays any lines in file which contain string as a prefix. As look performs a binary search, the lines in file must be sorted (where sort(1) was given the same options -d and/or -f that look is invoked with).

If file is not specified, the file /usr/share/dict/words is used, only alphanumeric characters are compared and the case of alphabetic characters is ignored.

OPTIONS

-a, --alternative

Use the alternative dictionary file.

-d, --alphanum

Use normal dictionary character set and order, i.e., only blanks and alphanumeric characters are compared. This is on by default if no file is specified.

Note that blanks have been added to dictionary character set for compatibility with sort

-d command since version 2.28.

-f, --ignore-case

Ignore the case of alphabetic characters. This is on by default if no file is specified.

-t, --terminate character

Specify a string termination character, i.e., only the characters in string up to and

including the first occurrence of character are compared.

`-h, --help`

Display help text and exit.

`-V, --version`

Display version and exit.

EXIT STATUS

The look utility exits 0 if one or more lines were found and displayed, 1 if no lines were found, and >1 if an error occurred.

ENVIRONMENT

WORDLIST

Path to a dictionary file. The environment variable has greater priority than the dictionary path defined in the FILES segment.

FILES

`/usr/share/dict/words`

the dictionary

`/usr/share/dict/web2`

the alternative dictionary

HISTORY

The look utility appeared in Version 7 AT&T Unix.

EXAMPLES

```
sort -d /etc/passwd -o /tmp/look.dict
```

```
look -t: root:foobar /tmp/look.dict
```

SEE ALSO

`grep(1)`, `sort(1)`

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker <<https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>>.

AVAILABILITY

The look command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>.

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