



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

\$ man sys_errlist.3

perror(3) Library Functions Manual perror(3)

NAME

perror - print a system error message

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>

void perror(const char *s);

#include <errno.h>

int errno; /* Not really declared this way; see errno(3) */

[[deprecated]] const char *const sys_errlist[];

[[deprecated]] int sys_nerr;
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

sys_errlist, sys_nerr:

From glibc 2.19 to glibc 2.31:

 _DEFAULT_SOURCE

glibc 2.19 and earlier:

 _BSD_SOURCE

DESCRIPTION

The perror() function produces a message on standard error describing the last error encountered during a call to a system or library function.

First (if s is not NULL and *s is not a null byte ('\0')), the argument string s is printed,

followed by a colon and a blank. Then an error message corresponding to the current value

of `errno` and a new-line.

To be of most use, the argument string should include the name of the function that incurred the error.

The global error list `sys_errlist[]`, which can be indexed by `errno`, can be used to obtain the error message without the newline. The largest message number provided in the table is `sys_nerr-1`. Be careful when directly accessing this list, because new error values may not have been added to `sys_errlist[]`. The use of `sys_errlist[]` is nowadays deprecated; use `strerror(3)` instead.

When a system call fails, it usually returns -1 and sets the variable `errno` to a value describing what went wrong. (These values can be found in `<errno.h>`.) Many library functions do likewise. The function `perror()` serves to translate this error code into human-readable form. Note that `errno` is undefined after a successful system call or library function call: this call may well change this variable, even though it succeeds, for example because it internally used some other library function that failed. Thus, if a failing call is not immediately followed by a call to `perror()`, the value of `errno` should be saved.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

??			
? Interface	? Attribute	? Value	?
??			
? <code>perror()</code>	? Thread safety	? MT-Safe race:stderr	?
??			

STANDARDS

`errno`
`perror()`
C11, POSIX.1-2008.
`sys_nerr`
`sys_errlist`
BSD.

HISTORY

`errno`
`perror()`
POSIX.1-2001, C89, 4.3BSD.

sys_nerr

sys_errlist

Removed in glibc 2.32.

SEE ALSO

err(3), errno(3), error(3), strerror(3)

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

perror(3)