

**NAME**

**irb** — Interactive Ruby Shell

**SYNOPSIS**

```
irb [--version] [-dfUw] [-I directory] [-r library] [-E external[:internal]]
  [-W[level]] [--[no]inspect] [--[no]multiline] [--[no]singleline] [--[no]echo]
  [--[no]colorize] [--[no]autocomplete] [--[no]verbose] [--prompt mode]
  [--prompt-mode mode] [--inf-ruby-mode] [--simple-prompt] [--noprompt]
  [--tracer] [--back-trace-limit n] [--] [program_file] [argument ...]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**irb** is the REPL(read-eval-print loop) environment for Ruby programs.

**OPTIONS**

```
--version          Prints the version of irb.
-E external[:internal]
--encoding external[:internal]
                    Same as 'ruby -E' . Specifies the default value(s) for external encodings and internal
                    encoding. Values should be separated with colon (:).
                    You can omit the one for internal encodings, then the value
                    (Encoding.default_internal) will be nil.
-I path           Same as 'ruby -I' . Specifies $LOAD_PATH directory
-U                 Same as 'ruby -U' . Sets the default value for internal encodings
                    (Encoding.default_internal) to UTF-8.
-d                 Same as 'ruby -d' . Sets $DEBUG to true.
-f                 Suppresses read of ~/.irbrc.
-w                 Same as 'ruby -w' .
-W                 Same as 'ruby -W' .
-h
--help            Prints a summary of the options.
-r library       Same as 'ruby -r' . Causes irb to load the library using require.
--inspect         Uses 'inspect' for output (default except for bc mode)
--noinspect       Doesn't use inspect for output
--multiline       Uses multiline editor module.
--nomultiline     Doesn't use multiline editor module.
--singleline      Uses singleline editor module.
--nosingleline    Doesn't use singleline editor module.
--extra-doc-dir   Add an extra doc dir for the doc dialog.
--echo            Show result (default).
--noecho          Don't show result.
--echo-on-assignment
                  Show result on assignment.
```

```

--noecho-on-assignment      Don't show result on assignment.
--truncate-echo-on-assignment  Show truncated result on assignment (default).
--colorize                  Use colorization.
--nocolorize                Don't use colorization.
--autocomplete              Use autocompletion.
--noautocomplete            Don't use autocompletion.
--regexp-completor          Use regexp based completion.
--type-completor            Use type based completion.
--verbose                   Show details.
--noverbose                 Don't show details.
--prompt mode
--prompt-mode mode        Switch prompt mode. Pre-defined prompt modes are 'default', 'simple', 'xmp' and
                             'inf-ruby'.
--inf-ruby-mode              Uses prompt appropriate for inf-ruby-mode on emacs. Suppresses --multiline and
                             --singleline.
--simple-prompt              Makes prompts simple.
--noprompt                  No prompt mode.
--tracer                     Displays trace for each execution of commands.
--back-trace-limit n      Displays backtrace top n and tail n. The default value is 16.

```

## ENVIRONMENT

```

IRB_LANG      The locale used for irb.
IRBRC         The path to the personal initialization file.
XDG_CONFIG_HOME irb respects XDG_CONFIG_HOME. If this is set, load
               $XDG_CONFIG_HOME/irb/irbrc as a personal initialization file.

```

Also **irb** depends on same variables as *ruby(1)*.

## FILES

```

~/.irbrc Personal irb initialization. If IRBRC is set, read $IRBRC instead. If IRBRC is not set and
XDG_CONFIG_HOME is set, $XDG_CONFIG_HOME/irb/irbrc is loaded.

```

## EXAMPLES

```

% irb
irb(main):001:0> 1 + 1
2
irb(main):002:0> def t(x)
irb(main):003:1> x + 1
irb(main):004:1> end
=> :t

```

```
irb(main):005:0> t(3)
=> 4
irb(main):006:0> if t(3) == 4
irb(main):007:1> p :ok
irb(main):008:1> end
:ok
=> :ok
irb(main):009:0> quit
%
```

**SEE ALSO**

*ruby(1)*.

**REPORTING BUGS**

- Security vulnerabilities should be reported via an email to *security@ruby-lang.org*. Reported problems will be published after being fixed.
- Other bugs and feature requests can be reported via the Ruby Issue Tracking System (<https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/>). Do not report security vulnerabilities via this system because it publishes the vulnerabilities immediately.

**AUTHORS**

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