

```
$ file
```

# Master file — Interactively

*Why the terminal is the fastest way to identify files*

GO

## Instant feedback

Press Enter, see it happen — no compiling.

RE

## Learn by tweaking

Change one flag, rerun, and watch it change.

IO

## Real files, real power

Identify any file's real type instantly.

OK

## Zero setup

Built into every Linux system — just open a shell.

```
$ file photo.jpg
```

**JPEG image**

~10 sec

# 01

## Identify A File's Type

*Find out what a file really is, not just its name*

- file reads the content, not the extension
- Works even if the file has no extension
- Instantly spot a renamed or fake file type

### SYNTAX

```
file photo.jpg
```



user@linux: ~

```
$ file photo.jpg
```

**JPEG image data**



## 02

# Check Multiple Files At Once

*Scan a whole batch of files in one command*

- Pass several filenames in a single call
- Each file gets its own type on its own line
- Great for auditing a folder full of downloads

### SYNTAX

```
file *.zip
```



user@linux: ~

```
$ file *.zip  
a.zip: Zip archive  
b.zip: Zip archive
```

**2 archives**



## 03

# See Just The Type, No Name

*Get clean output for scripts and pipelines*

- -b prints the type only, brief mode
- Perfect for feeding into other commands
- Removes the filename: prefix from output

### SYNTAX

```
file -b script.sh
```



user@linux: ~

```
$ file -b script.sh
```

**Bourne shell script**



# 04

## Peek Inside A Compressed File

*See what a compressed file actually contains*

- file can look inside gzip and zip archives
- Great before extracting something unknown
- Confirms it's really what its name claims

### SYNTAX

```
file archive.tar.gz
```



user@linux: ~

```
$ file archive.tar.gz
```

**gzip compressed data**





```
$ echo "Thanks for watching!"
```

# Thank You For Watching

*You just learned 4 real file moves — now go run them yourself.*

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