

Perl Special Vars Quick Reference

<code>\$_</code>	The default or implicit variable.
<code>@_</code>	Subroutine parameters.
<code>\$a</code>	sort comparison routine variables.
<code>\$b</code>	

Regular Expressions

<code><digit></code>	Regex parenthetical capture holders.
<code>&</code>	Last successful match (degrades performance).
<code>`</code>	Prematch for last successful match string (degrades performance).
<code>'</code>	Postmatch for last successful match string (degrades performance).
<code>+</code>	Last paren match.
<code>^N</code>	Last closed paren match.
<code>@+</code>	Offsets of ends of successful submatches in scope.
<code>@-</code>	Offsets of starts of successful submatches in scope.
<code>*</code>	Boolean for multi-line matching. Deprecated. Use <code>/s</code> and <code>/m</code> .
<code>^R</code>	Last regex (<code>{code}</code>) result.

IO and Separators

<code>.</code>	Current line number (or record number) of most recent filehandle.
<code>/</code>	Input record separator.
<code> </code>	Output autoflush. 1=autoflush, 0=default
<code>,</code>	Output field separator (lists)
<code>\</code>	Output record separator.
<code>"</code>	Output list separator. (interpolated lists)
<code>;</code>	Subscript separator. (Use a real multidimensional array instead.)

Formats

<code>#</code>	Output format for printed numbers (deprecated).
<code>%</code>	Page number for currently selected output channel.
<code>=</code>	Current page length.
<code>-</code>	Number of lines left on page.
<code>~</code>	Format name.
<code>^</code>	Name of top-of-page format.
<code>:</code>	Format line break characters
<code>^L</code>	Form feed (default <code>"\f"</code>).
<code>^A</code>	Format Accumulator

Status Reporting

<code>?</code>	Child error. Status code of most recent system call or pipe.
<code>!</code>	Operating System Error. (What just went 'bang'?)
<code>#!</code>	Error number hash
<code>^E</code>	Extended Operating System Error (Extra error explanation).
<code>@</code>	Eval error.

ID's and Process Information

<code>\$\$</code>	Process ID
<code>\$<</code>	Real user id of process.
<code>\$></code>	Effective user id of process.
<code>\$(</code>	Real group id of process.
<code>\$)</code>	Effective group id of process.
<code>\$0</code>	Program name.
<code>^0</code>	Operating System name.

Perl Status Info

<code>]</code>	Version and patch number of perl interpreter.
<code>^C</code>	Current value of flag associated with <code>-c</code> switch.
<code>^D</code>	Current value of debugging flags
<code>^F</code>	Maximum file descriptor.
<code>^I</code>	Value of the <code>-i</code> (inplace edit) switch.
<code>^M</code>	Emergency Memory pool.
<code>^P</code>	Internal variable for debugging support.
<code>^R</code>	Last regex (<code>{code}</code>) result.
<code>^S</code>	Exceptions being caught. (eval)
<code>^T</code>	Base time of program start.
<code>^V</code>	Perl version.
<code>^W</code>	Status of <code>-w</code> switch
<code>^X</code>	Perl executable name.

Command Line Args

<code>ARGV</code>	Filehandle iterates over files from command line (see also <code><></code>).
<code>\$ARGV</code>	Name of current file when reading <code><></code>
<code>@ARGV</code>	List of command line args.
<code>ARGVOUT</code>	Output filehandle for <code>-i</code> switch

Miscellaneous

<code>@F</code>	Autosplit (<code>-a</code> mode) recipient.
<code>@INC</code>	List of library paths.
<code>%INC</code>	Keys are filenames, values are paths to modules included via <code>use</code> , <code>require</code> , or <code>do</code> .
<code>%ENV</code>	Hash containing current environment variables
<code>%SIG</code>	Signal handlers.
<code>\$[</code>	Array and substr first element (Deprecated!).

See [perlvar](#) for detailed descriptions of each of these (and a few more) special variables.

When modifying special variables, it is often a good practice to localize the effects of the change. ie,

```
my @array = ( 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 );
print "@array\n";
{
    local $" = "\t";
    print "@array\n";
}
print "@array\n";
```