

**NAME**

comm – compare two sorted files line by line

**SYNOPSIS**

**comm** [*OPTION*]... *FILE1 FILE2*

**DESCRIPTION**

Compare sorted files *FILE1* and *FILE2* line by line.

When *FILE1* or *FILE2* (not both) is –, read standard input.

With no options, produce three-column output. Column one contains lines unique to *FILE1*, column two contains lines unique to *FILE2*, and column three contains lines common to both files.

**-1** suppress column 1 (lines unique to *FILE1*)

**-2** suppress column 2 (lines unique to *FILE2*)

**-3** suppress column 3 (lines that appear in both files)

**--check-order**

check that the input is correctly sorted, even if all input lines are pairable

**--nocheck-order**

do not check that the input is correctly sorted

**--output-delimiter=STR**

separate columns with *STR*

**--total** output a summary

**-z, --zero-terminated**

line delimiter is NUL, not newline

**--help** display this help and exit

**--version**

output version information and exit

Note, comparisons honor the rules specified by 'LC\_COLLATE'.

**EXAMPLES**

comm -12 file1 file2

Print only lines present in both file1 and file2.

comm -3 file1 file2

Print lines in file1 not in file2, and vice versa.

**AUTHOR**

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**REPORTING BUGS**

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report comm translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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**SEE ALSO**

join(1), uniq(1)

Full documentation at: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/comm>>  
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) comm invocation'