NAME

look — display lines beginning with a given string

SYNOPSIS

look [**−bdf**] [**−t** *termchar*] *string* [*file ...*]

DESCRIPTION

The **look** utility displays any lines in *file* which contain *string* as a prefix.

If *file* is not specified, the file /usr/share/dict/words is used, only alphanumeric characters are compared and the case of alphabetic characters is ignored.

The following options are available:

−b, −−binary
  Use a binary search on the given word list. If you are ignoring case with **−f** or ignoring non-alphanumeric characters with **−d**, the file must be sorted in the same way. Please note that these options are the default if no filename is given. See sort(1) for more information on sorting files.

−d, −−alphanum
  Dictionary character set and order, i.e., only alphanumeric characters are compared.

−f, −−ignore−case
  Ignore the case of alphabetic characters.

−t, −−terminate *termchar*
  Specify a string termination character, i.e., only the characters in *string* up to and including the first occurrence of *termchar* are compared.

ENVIRONMENT

The LANG, LC_ALL and LC_CTYPE environment variables affect the execution of the **look** utility. Their effect is described in environ(7).

FILES

/usr/share/dict/words the dictionary

EXIT STATUS

The **look** utility exits 0 if one or more lines were found and displayed, 1 if no lines were found, and >1 if an error occurred.

COMPATIBILITY

The original manual page stated that tabs and blank characters participated in comparisons when the **−d** option was specified. This was incorrect and the current man page matches the historic implementation.

look uses a linear search by default instead of a binary search, which is what most other implementations use by default.

The **−a** and **−−alternative** flags are ignored for compatibility.

SEE ALSO

grep(1), sort(1)

HISTORY

A **look** utility appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX.

BUGS

    Lines are not compared according to the current locale's collating order. Input files must be sorted with
`LC_COLLATE` set to 'C'.