

MATLAB - THE SWITCH STATEMENT

A switch block conditionally executes one set of statements from several choices. Each choice is covered by a case statement.

An evaluated switch_expression is a scalar or string.

An evaluated case_expression is a scalar, a string or a cell array of scalars or strings.

The switch block tests each case until one of the cases is true. A case is true when –

- For numbers, **eq**case_expression, switch_expression.
- For strings, **strcmp**case_expression, switch_expression.
- For objects that support the **eq**case_expression, switch_expression.
- For a cell array case_expression, at least one of the elements of the cell array matches switch_expression, as defined above for numbers, strings and objects.

When a case is true, MATLAB executes the corresponding statements and then exits the switch block.

The **otherwise** block is optional and executes only when no case is true.

Syntax

The syntax of switch statement in MATLAB is –

```
switch <switch_expression>
  case <case_expression>
    <statements>
  case <case_expression>
    <statements>
  ...
  ...
  otherwise
    <statements>
end
```

Example

Create a script file and type the following code in it –

```
grade = 'B';
switch(grade)
  case 'A'
    fprintf('Excellent!\n' );
  case 'B'
    fprintf('Well done\n' );
  case 'C'
    fprintf('Well done\n' );
  case 'D'
    fprintf('You passed\n' );
  case 'F'
    fprintf('Better try again\n' );
  otherwise
    fprintf('Invalid grade\n' );
end
```

When you run the file, it displays –

Well done

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