

PERL REF FUNCTION

http://www.tutorialspoint.com/perl/perl_ref.htm

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Description

This function returns a true value if `EXPR`, or `$_` if `EXPR` is not supplied, is a reference. The actual value returned also defines the type of entity the reference refers to.

The built-in types are –

- REF
- SCALAR
- ARRAY
- HASH
- CODE
- GLOB
- LVALUE
- IO::Handle

If a variable was blessed with the `bless` function, then the new data type will be returned. The new data type will normally be a class name.

Syntax

Following is the simple syntax for this function –

```
ref EXPR  
  
ref
```

Return Value

This function returns empty string if not a reference and string if a reference in Scalar Context.

Example

Following is the example code showing its basic usage –

```
#!/usr/bin/perl -w  
  
$foobar = { };  
bless($foobar, 'ATMPCLASS');  
print "ref() \$$foobar is now in class ", ref($foobar), "\n";
```

When above code is executed, it produces the following result –

```
ref() $foobar is now in class ATMPCLASS  
Loading [MathJax]/jax/output/HTML-CSS/fonts/TeX/fontdata.js
```