

# PERL SPLIT FUNCTION

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/perl/perl\\_split.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/perl/perl_split.htm)

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## Description

This function splits a string expression into fields based on the delimiter specified by PATTERN. If no pattern is specified whitespace is the default. An optional limit restricts the number of elements returned.

A negative limit has the same effect as no limit. This function is often used in conjunction with join to create small text databases.

## Syntax

Following is the simple syntax for this function –

```
split /PATTERN/, EXPR, LIMIT
split /PATTERN/, EXPR
split /PATTERN/
split
```

## Return Value

- Return Value in Scalar Context: Not recommended, but it returns the number of fields found and stored the fields in the @\_ array.
- Return Value in Array Context: A list of fields found in EXPR or \$\_ if no expression is specified.

## Example

Following is the example code showing its basic usage –

```
#!/usr/bin/perl -w

@fields = split(/:/, "1:2:3:4:5");
print "Field values are: @fields\n";
```

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

```
Field values are: 1 2 3 4 5
Loading [MathJax]/jax/output/HTML-CSS/jax.js
```