

UNIX / LINUX SHELL - THE WHILE LOOP

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The **while** loop enables you to execute a set of commands repeatedly until some condition occurs. It is usually used when you need to manipulate the value of a variable repeatedly.

Syntax

```
while command
do
    Statement(s) to be executed if command is true
done
```

Here the Shell *command* is evaluated. If the resulting value is *true*, given *statement(s)* are executed. If *command* is *false* then no statement will be executed and the program will jump to the next line after the done statement.

Example

Here is a simple example that uses the **while** loop to display the numbers zero to nine –

[Live Demo](#)

```
#!/bin/sh

a=0

while [ $a -lt 10 ]
do
    echo $a
    a=`expr $a + 1`
done
```

Upon execution, you will receive the following result –

```
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
```

Each time this loop executes, the variable **a** is checked to see whether it has a value that is less than 10. If the value of **a** is less than 10, this test condition has an exit status of 0. In this case, the current value of **a** is displayed and later **a** is incremented by 1.