

NAME

true, **false** — do nothing

SYNOPSIS

true
false

OPTIONS

Ignored.

EXIT STATUS

true: 0 (success)
false: 1

SEE ALSO

The `: sh(1)` built-in, equivalent to **true**.

STANDARDS

Conforms to IEEE Std 1003.1-2024 (“POSIX.1”), though the standard allows **false** to exit with any value [1, 125].

HISTORY

Appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX as
true, false – provide truth values
with **true** an empty file and **false** reading
exit 1

AT&T System III UNIX **false** exits 255. Later releases retain these implementations, with increasing amounts of licensing and licence comments; AT&T System V Release 4 UNIX adds `/sbin/sh` shebangs.

X/Open Portability Guide Issue 2 (“XPG2”) standardises **true** as exiting "zero" and **false** — "non-zero".

IEEE Std 1003.1-2024 (“POSIX.1”) narrows **false** to the present-day [1, 125].