

The `wc` command in UNIX is a command line utility for printing newline, word and byte counts for files. It can return the number of lines in a file, the number of characters in a file and the number of words in a file. It can also be combine with pipes for general counting operations.

How to get count information on a file

To get count information on a file use the `wc` command with no options.

```
wc /usr/share/dict/words
```

```
235886 235886 2493109 /usr/share/dict/words
```

The output is number of lines, number of words, number of bytes, filename.

How to print the number of lines in a file

To print the number of lines in a file (or more specifically newline counts) use the `-l` option.

```
wc -l /usr/share/dict/words
```

```
235886 /usr/share/dict/words
```

How to print the number of characters in a file

To print the number of characters in a file use the `-m` option.

```
wc -m /usr/share/dict/words
```

```
2493109 /usr/share/dict/words
```

How to print the number of bytes in a file

To print the number of bytes in a file use the `-c` option.

```
wc -c /usr/share/dict/words
```

```
2493109 /usr/share/dict/words
```

How to print the number of words in a file

To print the number of words in a file use the -w option.

```
wc -w /usr/share/dict/words
```

```
235886 /usr/share/dict/words
```