

POSTGRESQL 8.3 PSQL CHEAT SHEET

psql is located in the bin folder of the PostgreSQL install and PgAdmin III install.

This is psql 8.3.5, the PostgreSQL interactive terminal.

Usage: psql [OPTIONS]... [DBNAME [USERNAME]]

General options:

```
-c COMMAND                run only single command (SQL or internal) and exit
-d, --dbname=NAME        specify database name to connect to (default: "logged in username here")
-f, --file=FILENAME      execute commands from file, then exit
--help                   show this help, then exit
-l, --list                list available databases, then exit
-v NAME=VALUE            set psql variable NAME to VALUE
--version                 output version information, then exit
-X                        do not read startup file (~/.psqlrc)
```

Interactive Console:

```
TYPE: \copyright          for distribution terms
      \h for help with SQL commands    for help with SQL commands
      \? for help with psql commands   for help with psql commands
      \g or terminate with semicolon to execute query
      \q to quit                       or terminate with semicolon to execute query
                                       to quit
```

```
GENERAL:
\c[connect] [DBNAME]- USER[- HOST]- PORT[-] connect to new database
\cd [DIR]                          change the current working directory
\encoding [ENCODING]               show or set client encoding
\h [NAME]                           help on syntax of SQL commands, * for all commands
\set [NAME [VALUE]]                set internal variable, or list all if no parameters
\timing                             toggle timing of commands (currently off)
\unset NAME                         unset (delete) internal variable
\prompt [TEXT] NAME                 prompt user to set internal variable
\! [COMMAND]                         execute command in shell or start interactive shell
```

```
QUERY BUFFER:
\e [FILE]                            edit the query buffer (or file) with external editor
\g [FILE]                              send query buffer to server (and results to file or pipe)
\p                                     show the contents of the query buffer
\r                                     reset (clear) the query buffer
\w FILE                                write query buffer to file
```

```
INPUT/OUTPUT:
\echo [STRING]                        write string to standard output
\i FILE                               execute commands from file
\o [FILE]                              send all query results to file or pipe
\qecho [STRING]                       write string to query output stream (see \o)
```

```
INFORMATIONAL:
\d [NAME]                             describe table, index, sequence, or view
\d\t(i|s|v|s) [PATTERN] (add "+" for more detail) list tables/indexes/sequences/views/system tables
\da [PATTERN]                          list aggregate functions
\db [PATTERN]                           list tablespaces (add "+" for more detail)
\dc [PATTERN]                           list conversions
\dc                                     list casts
\dd [PATTERN]                           show comment for object
\dd [PATTERN]                           list domains
\df [PATTERN]                           list functions (add "+" for more detail)
\df [PATTERN]                           list text search configurations (add "+" for more detail)
\dfd [PATTERN]                          list text search dictionaries (add "+" for more detail)
\df [PATTERN]                           list text search templates
\dfp [PATTERN]                          list text search parsers (add "+" for more detail)
\dg [PATTERN]                           list groups
\dn [PATTERN]                           list schemas (add "+" for more detail)
\do [NAME]                              list operators
\dl [PATTERN]                           list large objects, same as \lo list
\dp [PATTERN]                           list table, view, and sequence access privileges
\dT [PATTERN]                           list data types (add "+" for more detail)
\du [PATTERN]                           list users
\l                                       list all databases (add "+" for more detail)
\z [PATTERN]                           list table, view, and sequence access privileges (same as \dp)
```

```
FORMATTING
\a                                     toggle between unaligned and aligned output mode
\C [STRING]                           set table title, or unset if none
\f [STRING]                           show or set field separator for unaligned query output
\H                                     toggle HTML output mode (currently off)
\pset NAME [VALUE]                    set table output option
                                       (NAME := {format|border|expanded|fieldsep|footer|null|numericlocale|recordsep
                                       |tuples_only|title|tableattr|pager})
\T [STRING]                            show only rows (currently off)
\X                                     set HTML <table> tag attributes, or unset if none
\X                                     toggle expanded output (currently off)
```

```
COPY, LARGE OBJECT
\copy ...                             perform SQL COPY with data stream to the client host
\lo_export LOBOID FILE                 LOBOID FILE
\lo_import FILE [COMMENT]              FILE [COMMENT]
\lo_list                               large object operations
\lo_unlink LOBOID
```

Connection options:

```
-h, --host=HOSTNAME    database server host or socket directory
-p, --port=PORT        database server port number
-U, --username=NAME    connect as specified database user
-W, --password         force password prompt (should happen automatically)
-e, --exit-on-error    exit on error, default is to continue
-d DBNAME              some database
```

psql automated shell examples

```
restore whole server
psql --host=localhost --username=someuser -f /path/to/pgdumpall.sql
Run an sql batch script against a database
psql -h localhost -U someuser -d somedb -f /path/to/somefile.sql
Run an sql batch script against a database and send output to file
psql -h localhost -U someuser -d somedb -f /path/to/scriptfile.sql -o /path/to/outputfile.txt
Run a single statement against a db
psql -U postgres -d pagila -c "CREATE TABLE test(some_id serial PRIMARY KEY, some_text text);"
Output data in html format
psql -h someserver -p 5432 -U someuser -d somedb -H -c "SELECT * FROM sometable" -o mydata.html
```

psql Interactive mode

```
Launch Interactive session
psql -h localhost -U postgres -d somedb
View help for SELECT * LIMIT
\h SELECT * LIMIT
List all tables in db with descriptions
\d\+
List all tables in db with s in the name
\d\+ *s*
Cancel out of MORE screen
:q
```

<http://www.postgresqlonline.com>