

**NAME**

files – conventions for file/device output

**BUILT-IN FUNCTIONS**

With this group of functions, the name "tty", when used for *file\_name*, is special and refers to the user's terminal.

`open()` – Lists all open files. Returns zero.

`open(file_name)` – Makes *file\_name*, which is a string constant or expression, available for output. Files are opened to append. Returns zero for success, -1 if the file can not be opened or if there are too many open files.

`close(file_name)` – Closes *file\_name* and removes it from the table of files available for output. Returns zero for success, -1 if the file wasn't open. Any open file should be closed before attempting to modify the file with other UNIX utilities. Otherwise the file may be corrupted if two processes are writing to the file.

`on()` – Lists all open files and indicates which ones are currently turned on for output.

`on(file_name)` – Turns on *file\_name* for output. All messages, except for some error and debugging messages, but including all `print` and `printf()` output, are sent to all turned-on devices. If *file\_name* has not been made available for output with the `open()` function, it will be opened. Returns zero for success, -1 if the file can't be opened or if there are too many open files.

`off(file_name)` – Turns off output to *file\_name*, but keeps it in the list of files available for output. If this was the last turned-on file or device, `tty` is turned back on automatically. Returns zero for success, -1 if the file wasn't open.

If the user changes `spec`'s current directory, open files may be referenced either by the name with which the files were opened or by the correct path name relative to the current directory.

Errors during parsing or execution of commands, or typing a `^C` turns off all open files except log files. (A log file is a file with a name beginning with the characters `log`.)

Files should be closed before attempting to edit them outside of `spec`.

**GLOBALS**

`DATAFILE` – Global variable, holds name of data file.

PRINTER – Global variable, holds name of printer.

**MACROS**

ond – turns DATAFILE on.

offd – turns DATAFILE off.

onp – turns PRINTER on.

offp – turns PRINTER off.

ont – turns "tty" on.

offt – turns "tty" off.

**SEE ALSO**

newfile startup