



Beginner

Perl Maven

by Gábor Szabó

Perl Maven

Gábor Szabó

This book is for sale at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>

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Preface

In this eBook you will learn the basics of the Perl programming language. We will cover a large part of the language.

The goal is to provide a book that will be useful for both people who maintain legacy code and those who start new projects.

We keep in mind that you might need to maintain some really old code running on some really old version of Perl.

We will also provide solutions for when you are free from those chains. When you can use a recently released version of Perl and install extensions from CPAN.

Error reporting

Before reporting any issues with the eBook, please check that you are looking at the most recent edition. Check the [Changes](#) for the version number of this edition and compare that with the version number published on [LeanPub](#)¹.

If you encounter issues with the content, or the formatting you can report them as an issue on the GitHub project of the [perlmaven.com](#)² or privately to the author: Gabor Szabo gabor@szabgab.com.

Changes

Remove the newlines from the paragraph text to fit the expectation of Markua.

v0.06 2018-05-05

- New articles included:
 - [Have exceeded the maximum number of attempts \(1000\) to open temp file/dir](#)
 - [Passing multiple parameters to a function](#)
- Updated articles:
 - [Slurp](#)
 - [Using a queue in Perl](#)

¹https://leanpub.com/perl-maven/read_sample

²<https://github.com/szabgab/perlmaven.com>

v0.05 2018-04-04

- New articles included:
 - [tell](#)
 - [exists](#)
 - [Current working directory in Perl \(cwd, pwd\)](#)
 - [eof, end of file](#)
- Updated:
 - [json](#)

v0.04 2018-03-24

- New articles included:
 - [min, max, sum in Perl using List::Util](#)
 - [Reading and writing binary files](#)
 - [File Test Operators](#)
 - [How to improve my Perl program?](#)
- Create an index by collecting the =indexes from every file and listing them at the end of the book.
- Include images as well.
- Extract some sample code into files.

v0.03 2018-03-16

- New articles included:
 - [What is autovivification?](#)
 - [Installing a Perl Module from CPAN on Windows, Linux and Mac OSX](#)
 - [Running external programs from Perl with system](#)
 - [Scalar value ... better written as ...](#)
 - [substr outside of string at ...](#)
 - [Using a queue in Perl](#)
- Add Chapters
- Fix lots of formatting issues.
- Updated articles:
 - [Perl Tutorial](#)
 - [Perl Editor](#)

v0.02 2018-03-13

- Convert the `` tags to bold.
- Convert the `<i></i>` to italic.
- Convert `` to list item.
- Convert the external links such as `DWIM Perl`.
- Include pro articles as well.
- Include the Perl-tutorial main page with the list of supporters.
- Include the “other” pages from the bottom of the perl-tutorial.
- Include the `<include ..>` files.
- Add ids to the pages, include internal links.
- Convert `<iframe>` to link and warn about it.

v0.01 2018-03-12

- Collected the pages and put them together into a eBook.

Overview

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>.

Perl tutorial

About this Tutorial and eBook

The Perl Maven tutorial will teach you the basics of the Perl programming language. You'll be able to write simple scripts, analyze log files and read and write CSV files. Just to name a few common tasks.

You'll learn how to use CPAN and several specific CPAN modules.

It will be a good foundation for you to build on.

If you are interested in getting updated when new parts are published, please [subscribe to the newsletter](#)³.

There is also an [e-book](#)⁴ version of the material available for purchase. In addition to the tutorial, the eBook also includes some material that is only available [pro](#)⁵ subscribers.

Supporters

The updating of Perl Tutorial was supported by a number of people and corporations via a crowdfunding campaign. Some people wanted to stay anonymous, but most of them are listed here. Thanks to all of you for making this ongoing work possible!

- [cPanel, Inc.](#)⁶ picked up almost 50% of the tab. Thanks to [benny Vasquez](#)⁷ * [The Perl Shop](#)⁸ also provided substantial support.
- [Liz](#)⁹ & [Wendy](#)¹⁰ Mattijsen & Van Dijk * [Desmond Hokin](#)¹¹ * [Kevin Phair](#)¹²

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Extended eBook

An extended version of the Perl Tutorial is available as an [eBook](#)⁶¹. It contains all the materials from the free tutorial and a number of additional articles that are only available to the [Pro](#)⁶² subscribers.

Brand new or Legacy?

In every tutorial and in every book there is a tension between teaching the most modern techniques or teach how the legacy code works.

The most recent techniques will only be available to people who can use the most recent version of Perl. They are probably only relevant to new projects. People who need to use older versions of Perl or who cannot install modern CPAN modules will just get frustrated seeing all the nice stuff, but not able to use it.

The old techniques on the other hand will allow you to maintain existing applications and will allow you to write new applications on both old and new versions of Perl. The drawback here is that in many cases you might need to write more code, sometimes a lot more code, than you would if you used a recent version of Perl and recent CPAN modules.

This tutorial, and this eBook tries to provide a solution to this dilemma by providing both. Telling you about the alternative options and giving advice which one to use in which situation.

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⁶¹<https://leanpub.com/perl-maven/>

⁶²<https://perlmaven.com/pro>

Video series

There is a free [video course](#)⁶³ that includes over 210 screencasts, a total of more than 5 hours of video. In addition to presenting the material it also provides explanations to the solutions of all the exercise.

Free on-line Beginner Perl Maven tutorial

In this tutorial you are going to learn how to use the Perl 5 programming language to **get your job done**.

You will learn both general language features, and extensions or libraries or as the Perl programmers call them **modules**. We will see both standard modules, that come with perl and 3rd-party modules, that we install from **CPAN**.

When it is possible I'll try to teach things in a very task oriented way. I'll draw up tasks and then we'll learn the necessary tools to solve them. Where possible I'll also direct you to some exercises you can do to practice what you have learned.

Introduction

- [Install Perl](#), [print Hello World](#), [Safety net \(use strict, use warnings\)](#) * [#!/usr/bin/perl](#) - the hash-bang line * [Editors, IDEs, development environment for Perl](#) * [Getting Help](#) * [Perl on the command line](#) * [Core Perl documentation](#), [CPAN module documentation](#) * [POD - Plain Old Documentation](#) * [Debugging Perl scripts](#)

Scalars

- [Common warnings and error messages](#) * [Prompt, read from STDIN, read from the keyboard](#) * [Automatic string to number conversion](#) * [Conditional statements: if](#) * [Boolean \(true and false\) values in Perl](#) * [Numerical operators](#) * [String operators](#) * [undef, the initial value and the defined function](#) * [Strings in Perl: quoted, interpolated and escaped](#) * [Here documents](#) * [Scalar variables](#) * [Comparing scalars](#) * [String functions: length, lc, uc, index, substr](#) * [Number Guessing game \(rand, int\)](#) * [Perl while loop](#) * [Scope of variables in Perl](#) * [Boolean Short circuit](#)

Files

- [exit](#) * [Standard Output, Standard Error and command line redirection](#) * [warn](#) * [die](#) * [Writing to files](#) * [Appending to files](#) * [Open and read from files using Perl](#) * [Don't open files in the old way](#) * [Binary mode - reading and writing binary files](#) * [eof, end of file in Perl](#) * [tell](#) * [seek](#) * [truncate](#) * [Slurp mode](#)

⁶³<https://perlmaven.com/beginner-perl-maven-video-course>

Lists and Arrays

- [Perl foreach loop](#) * [The for loop in Perl](#) * [Lists in Perl](#) * [Using Modules](#) * [Arrays in Perl](#) * [Process command line parameters @ARGV](#) * [Process command line parameters using Getopt::Long](#) * [Advanced usage of Getopt::Long for accepting command line arguments](#) * [split](#) * [How to read and process a CSV file? \(split, Text::CSV_XS\)](#) * [join](#) * [The year of 19100 \(time, localtime, gmtime\)](#) and [introducing context](#) * [Context sensitivity in Perl](#) * [Reading from a file in scalar and list context](#) * [STDIN in scalar and list context](#) * [Sorting arrays in Perl](#) * [Sorting mixed strings](#) * [Unique values in an array in Perl](#) * [Manipulating Perl arrays: shift, unshift, push, pop](#) * [Stack](#) * [Queue](#) * [reverse](#) * [The ternary operator](#) * [Loop controls: next and last](#) * [min, max, sum using List::Util](#) * [qw - quote word](#)

Subroutines

- [Subroutines and Functions in Perl](#) * [Passing multiple parameters to a function](#) * [Variable number of parameters](#) * [Returning a list, returning an array](#) * [Recursive subroutines](#)

Hashes

- [Perl Hashes \(dictionary, associative array, look-up table\)](#) * [Creating hash from an array](#) * [Perl hash in scalar and list context](#) * [exists hash element](#) * [delete hash elements](#) * [Sorting a hash](#) * [Count word frequency in a text file](#)

Regular Expressions

- [Introduction to Regular Expressions in Perl](#) * [Regex: character classes](#) * [Regex: special character classes](#) * [Regex: quantifiers](#) * [Regex: Greedy and non-greedy match](#) * [Regex: Grouping and capturing](#) * [Regex: Anchors](#) * [Regex options and modifiers](#) * [Substitutions \(search and replace\)](#) * [trim - remove leading and trailing spaces](#) * [Perl 5 Regex Cheat sheet](#)

Shell related functionality

- [Perl -X operators](#) * [Perl pipes](#) * [Unix commands: chmod, chown, cd, mkdir, rmdir, ln, ls](#) * [Unix commands: pwd - current working directory](#) * [Running external programs using system](#) * [Unix commands: rm, mv, cp: How to remove, copy or rename a file with Perl](#) * [Windows/DOS commands: del, ren, dir](#) * [File globbing \(Wildcards\)](#) * [Directory handles](#) * [Traversing directory tree manually with recursion](#) * [Traversing directory tree manually using a queue and using find.](#)

CPAN

- [Download and install Perl \(Strawberry Perl or manual compilation\)](#) * [Download and install Perl using Perlbrew](#) * [Locating and evaluating CPAN modules](#) * [Downloading and installing Perl Modules from CPAN](#) * [How to change @INC to find Perl modules in non-standard locations?](#) * [How to change @INC to a relative directory](#) * [local::lib](#)

Examples for using Perl

- [How to replace a string in a file with Perl? \(slurp\)](#) * [Reading Excel files using Perl](#) * [Creating Excel files using Perl](#) * [Sending e-mail using Perl](#) * [CGI scripts with Perl](#) * [Parsing XML files](#) * [Reading and writing JSON files](#) * [Database access using Perl \(DBI, DBD::SQLite, MySQL, PostgreSQL, ODBC\)](#) * [Accessing LDAP using Perl](#)

Common warnings and error messages

- [Global symbol requires explicit package name ...](#) * [.. also explained in Variable declaration in Perl](#) * [Use of uninitialized value](#) * [Bareword not allowed while “strict subs” in use](#) * [Name “main::x” used only once: possible typo at ...](#) * [Unknown warnings category](#) * [Can’t use string \(...\) as a HASH ref while “strict refs” in use at ...](#) * [... explained in Symbolic references in Perl](#) * [Can’t locate ... in @INC](#) * [Scalar found where operator expected](#) * [“my” variable masks earlier declaration in same scope](#) * [Can’t call method ... on unblessed reference](#) * [Argument ... isn’t numeric in numeric ...](#) * [Can’t locate object method “...” via package “1” \(perhaps you forgot to load “1”?\)](#) * [Odd number of elements in hash assignment](#) * [Possible attempt to separate words with commas](#) * [Undefined subroutine ... called](#) * [Useless use of hash element in void context](#) * [Useless use of private variable in void context](#) * [readline\(\) on closed filehandle](#) * [Possible precedence issue with control flow operator](#) * [Scalar value better written as ...](#) * [substr outside of string at ...](#) * [Have exceeded the maximum number of attempts \(1000\) to open temp file/dir](#)

Extra articles

- [Multi dimensional arrays](#) * [Multi dimensional hashes](#) * [Minimal requirement to build a sane CPAN package](#) * [Statement modifiers: reversed if statements](#) * [autovivification](#)

From other books

- [Splice to slice and dice arrays in Perl](#) * [How to improve your Perl code](#)

Object Oriented Perl with Moose or Moo

There is a whole series of articles on writing Object Oriented code, using the light-weight [Moo](#)⁶⁴ OOP framework or the full-blown [Moose](#)⁶⁵ OOP framework.

There is a corresponding [video courses](#)⁶⁶ and the whole tutorial is available as [eBook](#)⁶⁷.

⁶⁴<https://perlmaven.com/moo>

⁶⁵<https://perlmaven.com/moose>

⁶⁶<https://perlmaven.com/beginner-perl-maven-video-course>

⁶⁷<https://leanpub.com/perl-maven/>

Introduction

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>.

Installing and getting started with Perl

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Windows

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Apple

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Editor and IDE

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Video

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First program

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Hello world

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Perl on the command line for non-Padre users

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>.

say() instead of print()

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>.

Safety net

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>.

User Input

This content is not available in the sample book. The book can be purchased on Leanpub at <http://leanpub.com/perl-maven>.

Getting rid of newlines

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]

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`\w` - word character - [0-9a-zA-Z_]

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`\s` - whitespace - `[\t\n\f\r]`

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*** Any number of characters**

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+ One or more characters

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Can't use string (...) as an HASH ref while "strict refs" in use at ...

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What other cases do you encounter often?

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“my” variable masks earlier declaration in same scope

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Can't call method ... on unblessed reference

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eval “use Storable”;

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Explanation

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Argument ... isn’t numeric in numeric ...

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Can’t locate object method “...” via package “1” (perhaps you forgot to load “1”?)

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Scalar value ... better written as ...

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Correct way to access elements of an array in Perl

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Have exceeded the maximum number of attempts (1000) to open temp file/dir

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Minimal requirement to build a sane CPAN package

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