

tail (output the last part of files)

This command is the opposite of →[head](#). It outputs the “tail” of a file, that is, its last 10 lines. If you want to view a different number of lines, call *tail* like this:

```
tail -30 file
```

In this example I asked *tail* to output 30 lines. You can substitute any other number.

An option that is very commonly used with *tail* is *-f* (“follow”). Try entering this command:

```
sudo tail -f /var/log/syslog
```

tail will print out the last ten lines of */var/log/syslog* and “follow” the file, that is, it will print out any lines that are added to the file. If you wait a while, you'll see how new entries to */var/log/syslog* are output on the terminal. This form of the *tail* command is useful for getting a real-time view of logged messages.