


Table of Contents

Preface	xv
I: Overview	1
1: An Overview of Perl	3
Getting Started	3
Natural and Artificial Languages	4
An Average Example	17
Filehandles	20
Operators	22
Control Structures	29
Regular Expressions	35
List Processing	41
What You Don't Know Won't Hurt You (Much)	43
II: The Gory Details	45
2: Bits and Pieces	47
Atoms	47
Molecules	49
Built-in Data Types	50
Variables	52
Names	53
Scalar Values	58
Context	69

List Values and Arrays	72
Hashes	76
Typeglobs and Filehandles	78
Input Operators	79
3: Unary and Binary Operators	86
Terms and List Operators (Leftward)	89
The Arrow Operator	90
Autoincrement and Autodecrement	91
Exponentiation	92
Ideographic Unary Operators	92
Binding Operators	93
Multiplicative Operators	94
Additive Operators	95
Shift Operators	95
Named Unary and File Test Operators	95
Relational Operators	100
Equality Operators	101
Bitwise Operators	101
C-Style Logical (Short-Circuit) Operators	102
Range Operator	103
Conditional Operator	105
Assignment Operators	107
Comma Operators	108
List Operators (Rightward)	109
Logical and, or, not, and xor	109
C Operators Missing from Perl	110
4: Statements and Declarations	111
Simple Statements	111
Compound Statements	113
if and unless Statements	114
Loop Statements	115
Bare Blocks	123
goto	126
Global Declarations	127
Scoped Declarations	129
Pragmas	136

5: Pattern Matching	139
The Regular Expression Bestiary	140
Pattern-Matching Operators	143
Metacharacters and Metasymbols	158
Character Classes	165
Quantifiers	176
Positions	178
Capturing and Clustering	182
Alternation	187
Staying in Control	188
Fancy Patterns	202
6: Subroutines	217
Syntax	217
Semantics	219
Passing References	224
Prototypes	225
Subroutine Attributes	231
7: Formats	234
Format Variables	237
Footers	240
8: References	242
What Is a Reference?	242
Creating References	245
Using Hard References	251
Symbolic References	263
Braces, Brackets, and Quoting	264
9: Data Structures	268
Arrays of Arrays	268
Hashes of Arrays	275
Arrays of Hashes	277
Hashes of Hashes	279
Hashes of Functions	282
More Elaborate Records	283
Saving Data Structures	286

10: Packages	288
Symbol Tables	293
Autoloading	296
11: Modules	299
Using Modules	299
Creating Modules	301
Overriding Built-in Functions	306
12: Objects	308
Brief Refresher on Object-Oriented Lingo	308
Perl's Object System	310
Method Invocation	311
Object Construction	317
Class Inheritance	321
Instance Destructors	330
Managing Instance Data	331
Managing Class Data	343
Summary	346
13: Overloading	347
The overload Pragma	348
Overload Handlers	349
Overloadable Operators	350
The Copy Constructor (=)	357
When an Overload Handler Is Missing (nomethod and fallback)	358
Overloading Constants	359
Public Overload Functions	360
Inheritance and Overloading	361
Run-Time Overloading	361
Overloading Diagnostics	362
14: Tied Variables	363
Tying Scalars	365
Tying Arrays	372
Tying Hashes	378
Tying Filehandles	384
A Subtle Untying Trap	395
Tie Modules on CPAN	397

III: Perl as Technology	399
15: Unicode	401
Building Character	402
Effects of Character Semantics	405
Caution,  Working	409
16: Interprocess Communication	411
Signals	412
Files	418
Pipes	426
System V IPC	434
Sockets	437
17: Threads	446
The Process Model	447
The Thread Model	448
18: Compiling	464
The Life Cycle of a Perl Program	465
Compiling Your Code	467
Executing Your Code	473
Compiler Backends	476
Code Generators	477
Code Development Tools	479
Avant-Garde Compiler, Retro Interpreter	480
19: The Command-Line Interface	486
Command Processing	486
Environment Variables	503
20: The Perl Debugger	506
Using the Debugger	507
Debugger Commands	509
Debugger Customization	518
Unattended Execution	521
Debugger Support	523
The Perl Profiler	525

21: Internals and Externals	530
How Perl Works	531
Internal Data Types	531
Extending Perl (Using C from Perl)	532
Embedding Perl (Using Perl from C)	538
The Moral of the Story	544
IV: Perl as Culture	545
22: CPAN	547
The CPAN modules Directory	548
Using CPAN Modules	551
Creating CPAN Modules	554
23: Security	557
Handling Insecure Data	558
Handling Timing Glitches	569
Handling Insecure Code	576
24: Common Practices	585
Common Goofs for Novices	585
Efficiency	593
Programming with Style	603
Fluent Perl	607
Program Generation	616
25: Portable Perl	621
Newlines	622
Endianness and Number Width	623
Files and Filesystems	624
System Interaction	625
Interprocess Communication (IPC)	626
External Subroutines (XS)	626
Standard Modules	627
Dates and Times	627
Internationalization	628
Style	628

26: Plain Old Documentation	629
Pod in a Nutshell	629
Pod Translators and Modules	638
Writing Your Own Pod Tools	640
Pod Pitfalls	643
Documenting Your Perl Programs	644
27: Perl Culture	645
History Made Practical	645
Perl Poetry	647
V: Reference Material	651
28: Special Names	653
Special Names Grouped by Type	653
Special Variables in Alphabetical Order	656
29: Functions	677
Perl Functions by Category	680
Perl Functions in Alphabetical Order	682
30: The Standard Perl Library	831
Library Science	831
A Tour of the Perl Library	833
31: Pragmatic Modules	836
use attributes	837
use autouse	838
use base	839
use blib	840
use bytes	840
use charnames	841
use constant	842
use diagnostics	844
use fields	846
use filetest	848
use integer	849
use less	850
use lib	850

use locale	852
use open	852
use overload	853
use re	854
use sigtrap	855
use strict	858
use subs	860
use vars	861
use warnings	861
32: Standard Modules	865
Listings by Type	866
Benchmark	875
Carp	878
CGI	878
CGI::Carp	879
Class::Struct	879
Config	880
CPAN	881
Cwd	881
Data::Dumper	882
DB_File	883
Dumpvalue	884
English	884
Errno	885
Exporter	885
Fatal	886
Fcntl	887
File::Basename	887
File::Compare	888
File::Copy	889
File::Find	889
File::Glob	890
File::Spec	893
File::stat	894
File::Temp	894
FileHandle	895
Getopt::Long	898
Getopt::Std	899

IO::Socket	899
IPC::Open2	900
IPC::Open3	901
Math::BigInt	902
Math::Complex	902
Math::Trig	903
Net::hostent	903
POSIX	904
Safe	906
Socket	907
Symbol	908
Sys::Hostname	909
Sys::Syslog	909
Term::Cap	911
Text::Wrap	911
Time::Local	912
Time::localtime	912
User::grent	913
User::pwent	913
33: Diagnostic Messages	916
Glossary	979
Index	1009