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Comparing Files

Often people compare the differences between two files using diff. But if you needed to do a comparison of similarities between files, comm is the command to use.

Code Listing 1: comm usage syntax

```
comm [option] file1 file2
```

Note: both file1 and file2 need to be sorted before using comm as it does a line by line comparison.

comm outputs three columns: lines that are unique to file1, lines that are unique to file2, and lines that are common to both files. The options '-1', '-2', '-3' will suppress the corresponding columns.

Running comm -2 file1 file2 with the following files, would output five.

Code Listing 2: comm output

```
File1:  
one  
two  
three
```

```
File2:  
one  
five  
three
```

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