



# The OCaml Language

OCaml v.4.08.1 — Revision 2 — Copyright © 2019 OCamlPro SAS — <http://www.ocamlpro.com/>

## Syntax

Implementations are in `.ml` files, interfaces are in `.mli` files.  
Comments can be nested, between delimiters (\*...\*)  
Integers: 123, 1\_000, 0x4533, 0o773, 0b1010101  
Chars: 'a', '\255', '\xFF', '\n'      Floats: 0.1, -1.234e-34

## Data Types

unit	void, takes only one value: ()
int	integer of either 31 or 63 bits, like 42
int32	32 bits Integer, like 42l
int64	64 bits Integer, like 42L
float	double precision float, like 1.0
bool	boolean, takes two values: true or false
char	simple ASCII characters, like 'A'
string	strings, like "Hello" or foo Hello foo
bytes	mutable string of chars
'a list	lists, like head :: tail or [1;2;3]
'a array	arrays, like [ 1;2;3 ]
<code>t1 * ... * tn</code>	tuples, like (1, "foo", 'b')

## Constructed Types

type record =	new record type
{ field1 : bool;	immutable field
mutable field2 : int; }	mutable field
type enum =	new variant type
Constant	Constant constructor
Param of string	Constructor with arg
Pair of string * int	Constructor with args
Gadt : int -> enum	GADT constructor
Inlined of { x : int }	Inline record

## Constructed Values

```
let r = { field1 = true; field2 = 3; }
let r' = { r with field1 = false }
r.field2 <- r.field2 + 1;
let c = Constant
let c = Param "foo"
let c = Pair ("bar",3)
let c = Gadt 0
let c = Inlined { x = 3 }
```

## References, Strings and Arrays

let x = ref 3	integer reference (mutable)
x := 4	reference assignation
print_int !x;	reference access
s.[0]	string char access
t.(0)	array element access
t.(0) <- x	array element modification

## Imports — Namespaces

open Unix	global open
let open Unix in <i>expr</i>	local open
Unix.( <i>expr</i> )	local open

## Functions

let f x = <i>expr</i>	function with one arg
let rec f x = <i>expr</i>	recursive function
apply:	f x
let f x y = <i>expr</i>	with two args
apply:	f x y
let f (x,y) = <i>expr</i>	with a pair as arg
apply:	f (x,y)
List.iter (fun x -> <i>expr</i> ) l	anonymous function
let f= function None -> <i>act</i>	function definition
Some x -> <i>act</i>	[by cases]
apply:	f (Some x)
let f ~str ~len = <i>expr</i>	with labeled args
apply:	f ~str:s ~len:10
apply (for ~str:str):	f ~str ~len
let f ?len ~str = <i>expr</i>	with optional arg (option)
let f ?(len=0) ~str = <i>expr</i>	optional arg default
apply (with omitted arg):	f ~str:s
apply (with commuting):	f ~str:s ~len:12
apply (len: int option):	f ?len:None ~str:s
apply (explicitly omitted):	arg has constrained type
let f (x : int) = <i>expr</i>	function with constrained type
let f : 'a 'b. 'a*'b -> 'a	polymorphic type
= fun (x,y) -> x	polymorphic type

## Modules

module M = struct .. end	module definition
module M: sig .. end = struct .. end	module and signature
module M = Unix	module renaming
include M	include items from
module type Sg = sig .. end	signature definition
module type Sg = module type of M	signature of module
let module M = struct .. end in ..	local module
let m = (module M : Sg)	to 1 <sup>st</sup> -class module
module M = (val m : Sg)	from 1 <sup>st</sup> -class module
module Make(S: Sg) = struct .. end	functor
module M = Make(M')	functor application

Module type items: val, external, type, exception, module, open, include, class

## Pattern-matching

match <i>expr</i> with	
<i>pattern</i> -> <i>action</i>	
<i>pattern</i> when <i>guard</i> -> <i>action</i>	conditional case
_ -> <i>action</i>	default case
Patterns:	
Pair (x,y) ->	variant pattern
{ field = 3; _ } ->	record pattern
head :: tail ->	list pattern
[1;2;x] ->	list pattern
(Some x) as y ->	with extra binding
(1,x)   (x,0) ->	or-pattern
exception <i>exn</i> ->	try&match

## Conditionals

Do NOT use on closures

Structural	Physical	Polymorphic Equality
=	==	Polymorphic Equality
<>	!=	Polymorphic Inequality

Polymorphic Generic Comparison Function: compare

	x < y	x = y	x > y
compare x y	negative	0	positive

Other Polymorphic Comparisons: >, >=, <, <=

## Loops

```
while cond do ... done;
for var = min_value to max_value do ... done;
for var = max_value downto min_value do ... done;
```

## Exceptions

exception MyExn	new exception
exception MyExn of t * t'	same with arguments
exception MyFail = Failure	rename exception with args
raise MyExn	raise an exception
raise (MyExn (args))	raise with args
try <i>expr</i>	catch MyExn
with MyExn -> ...	if raised in <i>expr</i>

## Objects and Classes

class virtual foo x =	virtual class with arg
let y = x+2 in	init before object creation
object (self: 'a)	object with self reference
val mutable variable = x	mutable instance variable
method get = variable	accessor
method set z =	
variable <- z+y	mutator
method virtual copy : 'a	virtual method
initializer	init after object creation
self#set (self#get+1)	
end	
class bar =	non-virtual class
let var = 42 in	class variable
fun z -> object	constructor argument
inherit foo z as super	inheritance and ancestor reference
method! set y =	method explicitly overridden
super#set (y+4)	access to ancestor
method copy = {< x = 5 >}	copy with change
end	
let obj = new bar 3	new object
obj#set 4; obj#get	method invocation
let obj = object .. end	immediate object

## Polymorphic variants

type t = [ `A   `B of int ]	closed variant
type u = [ `A   `C of float ]	union of variants
type v = [ t   u   ]	argument must be
let f : [t   u] -> int = function	a subtype of t
`A -> 0   `B n -> n	
let f : [t] -> int = function	t is a subtype
`A -> 0   `B n -> n   _ -> 1	of the argument