

# RUBY QUICK REFERENCE

Objects, blocks, iterators, regex, file I/O essentials

## Basics

### Hello World

```
puts "Hello, World!"
print "no newline"
p [1, 2, 3] # inspect output: [1, 2, 3]
```

### Run Ruby

```
ruby script.rb # run a file
ruby -e 'puts "hi"' # run inline
irb # interactive REPL
```

### Variables

**name** Local variable  
**@name** Instance variable  
**@@count** Class variable  
**\$debug** Global variable  
**MAX\_SIZE** Constant (uppercase by convention)

### Types

```
42.class # Integer
3.14.class # Float
"hello".class # String
true.class # TrueClass
nil.class # NilClass
:symbol.class # Symbol
```

## Strings

### String Basics

```
name = "World"
puts "Hello, #{name}!" # interpolation (double quotes)
puts "No #{interpolation}" # literal (single quotes)
multi = <<-HEREDOC
  indented heredoc
HEREDOC
```

### String Methods

**.length / .size** Character count  
**.upcase / .downcase** Case conversion  
**.strip** Remove leading/trailing whitespace  
**.split(' ', 1)** Split into array  
**.gsub(/pat/, 'rep!')** Global substitution  
**.include?('sub')** Check if contains substring  
**.start\_with?('pre')** Check prefix  
**.chars / .bytes** Array of characters / bytes  
**.to\_i / .to\_f** Convert to integer / float  
**.freeze** Make string immutable

## Arrays & Hashes

### Arrays

```
arr = [1, "two", :three]
arr << 4 # push (append)
arr[0] # 1
arr[1] # 4 (last element)
arr[1..2] # [two, :three] (slice)
```

### Array Methods

**.push / .pop** Add/remove from end  
**.shift / .unshift** Remove/add from beginning  
**.flatten** Flatten nested arrays  
**.compact** Remove nil values  
**.uniq** Remove duplicates  
**.sort / .reverse** Sort / reverse order  
**.map { |x| x \* 2 }** Transform each element  
**.select { |x| x > 0 }** Filter elements  
**.reduce(0) { |sum, x| sum + x }** Accumulate into single value

### Hashes

```
user = { name: "Alice", age: 30 } # symbol keys
old = { "key" => "value" } # string keys
user[:name] # "Alice"
user[:email] = "ab.com" # add pair
user.fetch(:name, "default") # with default
```

### Hash Methods

**.keys / .values** Array of keys / values  
**.each { |k, v| }** Iterate key-value pairs  
**.merge(other)** Merge two hashes  
**.key?(k) / .value?(v)** Check existence  
**.select { |k, v| }** Filter pairs  
**.transform\_values { |v| }** Transform all values

## Control Flow

### Conditionals

```
if score >= 90 then "A"
elsif score >= 80 then "B"
else "C"
end
puts "adult" if age >= 18 # inline if
puts "minor" unless age >= 18 # inline unless
```

### Case / When

```
case status
when :ok then puts "success"
when :error then puts "failed"
when 400..499 then puts "client error"
else puts "unknown"
end
```

### Loops

```
5.times { |i| puts i }
(1..10).each { |n| puts n }
while condition do end
until condition do end
loop { break if done }
```

### Ternary & Logical

```
status = age >= 18 ? "adult" : "minor"
name = input || "default" # or-assign
name ||= "fallback" # same effect
```

## Methods

### Defining Methods

```
def greet(name, greeting = "Hello")
  #{greeting}, #{name}!
end
greet("Alice") # "Hello, Alice!"
greet("Bob", "Hi") # "Hi, Bob!"
```

### Return Values

```
def add(a, b)
  a + b # last expression is implicit return
end
def divide(a, b)
  return nil if b == 0
  a.to_f / b
end
```

### Keyword & Splat Arguments

```
def connect(host, port: 80, **opts)
  puts "#{host}:#{port} #{opts}"
end
def log(*messages)
  messages.each { |m| puts m }
end
```

### Method Conventions

**(method)?** Returns boolean (predicate)  
**method!** Mutates receiver (bang method)  
**self.method** Class method definition

## Classes

### Class Definition

```
class User
  attr_accessor :name, :email
  def initialize(name, email)
    @name = name
    @email = email
  end
end
```

### Inheritance

```
class Admin < User
  def initialize(name, email, level)
    super(name, email)
    @level = level
  end
end
```

### Access Control

**public** Default; accessible from anywhere  
**private** Only accessible within the class  
**protected** Accessible within class and subclasses  
**attr\_reader** Generate getter method  
**attr\_writer** Generate setter method  
**attr\_accessor** Generate getter and setter

## Modules

### Mixins

```
module Greetable
  def greet
    "Hello, I'm #{name}"
  end
end
class User; include Greetable; end
```

### Namespaces

```
module Payment
  class Processor
    def charge(amount) end
  end
end
p = Payment::Processor.new
```

### Include vs Extend

**include ModName** Add as instance methods  
**extend ModName** Add as class methods  
**prepend ModName** Insert before class in method lookup

## Blocks & Iterators

### Block Syntax

```
[1, 2, 3].each { |n| puts n } # single-line block
[1, 2, 3].each do |n|
  puts n
end # multi-line block
```

### Yield

```
def with_logging
  puts "Start"
  result = yield
  puts "end"
  result
end
with_logging { expensive_operation }
```

### Procs & Lambdas

```
square = Proc.new { |x| x ** 2 }
square.call(5) # 25
double = ->(x) { x * 2 } # lambda
double.call(3) # 6
[1, 2, 3].map(&square) # [1, 4, 9]
```

### Common Iterators

**.each** Iterate over elements  
**.map / .collect** Transform each element  
**.select / .filter** Keep matching elements  
**.reject** Remove matching elements  
**.reduce / .inject** Accumulate into single value  
**.each\_with\_index** Iterate with index  
**.flat\_map** Map and flatten one level  
**.any? / .all? / .none?** Boolean checks on collection

## Regex

### Matching

```
"hello 42" =~ /\d+/ # 6 (match position)
"hello" =~ /\d+/ # nil (no match)
"hello".match?(/ell/) # true
md = "age: 30".match(/(\d+)/)
md[1] # "30"
```

### Common Patterns

**/^start/** Anchored at beginning  
**/end\$/** Anchored at end  
**/\d+/** One or more digits  
**/\w+/** Word characters  
**/\s+/** Whitespace  
**/[a-z]+/i** Case-insensitive  
**/(group)/** Capture group

### Substitution

```
"hello world".sub(/world/, "Ruby") # first match
"sabba".gsub(/a/, "x") # all matches: "xxbbx"
"foo bar".gsub(/(\w+)/) { $1.upcase } # "FOO BAR"
```

## File I/O

### Read & Write

```
content = File.read("data.txt")
lines = File.readlines("data.txt", chomp: true)
File.write("out.txt", "hello\n")
File.open("log.txt", "a") { |f| f.puts "entry" }
```

### File Operations

**File.exist?(path)** Check if file exists  
**File.directory?(path)** Check if path is a directory  
**File.basename(path)** Filename without directory  
**File.extname(path)** File extension  
**File.size(path)** File size in bytes  
**File.delete(path)** Delete a file  
**Dir.glob('\*.\*rb')** Find files matching pattern  
**FileUtils.mkdir\_p(path)** Create directory recursively

## CSV & JSON

```
require "json"
data = JSON.parse(File.read("data.json"))
File.write("out.json", JSON.pretty_generate(data))
require "csv"
CSV.foreach("data.csv", headers: true) { |row| puts row["name"] }
```