

rand EXPR

rand

Returns a random fractional number greater than or equal to 0 and less than the value of EXPR. (EXPR should be positive.) If EXPR is omitted, the value 1 is used. Currently EXPR with the value 0 is also special-cased as 1 (this was undocumented before Perl 5.8.0 and is subject to change in future versions of Perl). Automatically calls [srand](#) unless [srand](#) has already been called. See also [srand](#).

Apply [int](#) to the value returned by [rand](#) if you want random integers instead of random fractional numbers. For example,

```
int(rand(10))
```

returns a random integer between 0 and 9, inclusive.

(Note: If your rand function consistently returns numbers that are too large or too small, then your version of Perl was probably compiled with the wrong number of RANDBITS.)

[rand](#) is not cryptographically secure. You should not rely on it in security-sensitive situations. As of this writing, a number of third-party CPAN modules offer random number generators intended by their authors to be cryptographically secure, including: [Data::Entropy](#), [Crypt::Random](#), [Math::Random::Secure](#), and [Math::TrulyRandom](#).

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