

**exit()** — Terminate execution

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## Description

`exit(rc)` terminates execution and sets the overall return code to *rc*.

`exit()` with no argument specified is equivalent to `exit(0)`.

## Syntax

```
exit(real scalar rc)
```

```
exit()
```

## Remarks and examples

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Do not confuse `exit()` and `return`. `return` stops execution of the current function and returns to the caller, whereupon execution continues. `exit()` terminates execution. For instance, consider

```
function first()
{
    "begin execution"
    second()
    "this message will never be seen"
}

function second()
{
    "hello from second()"
    exit(0)
}
```

The result of running this would be

```
: first()
  begin execution
  hello from second()
```

If we changed the `exit(0)` to be `exit(198)` in `second()`, the result would be

```
: first()
  begin execution
  hello from second()
r(198);
```

No error message is presented. If you want to present an error message and exit, you should code `exit(error(198))`; see [M-5] `error()`.

### Conformability

`exit(rc)`:  
*rc*:  $1 \times 1$  (optional)

### Diagnostics

`exit(rc)` and `exit()` do not return.

### Also see

[M-5] `error()` — Issue error message

[M-4] `programming` — Programming functions