

**NAME**

`goto` - transfer command

**SYNOPSIS**

**goto** *label* [...]

**DESCRIPTION**

**Goto** is allowed only when the shell is taking commands from a seekable command file (see *lseek(2)*).

The entire command file is searched for a line beginning with a **:** as the first non-blank character, followed by one or more blanks, and then the *label*. If such a line is found, **goto** repositions the command-file offset to the line after the label and exits. This causes the shell to transfer to the labelled line.

**:** is a special command which causes the shell to do nothing.

**EXIT STATUS**

The **goto** command exits with one of the following values:

- 0 The label was found.
- 1 The label was not found.
- 2 An error was detected.

**SEE ALSO**

*if(1)*, *etsh(1)*, *tsh(1)*

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**COMPATIBILITY**

The **goto** command from Sixth Edition (V6) UNIX requires **:** to be the first character on the labelled line. Otherwise, the label cannot be found.

This port differs in that **:** may be preceded by blanks. This allows labelled lines to be indented so that complex command files might be easier to read and understand.

**HISTORY**

A **goto** command appeared as */bin/goto* in Third Edition UNIX.

**AUTHORS**

This port of the **goto** command is derived from Sixth Edition (V6) UNIX `/usr/source/s1/goto.c`. Presumably, Ken Thompson of Bell Labs wrote it. Jeffrey Allen Neitzel <[jan@etsh.io](mailto:jan@etsh.io)> ported and currently maintains it as `goto(1)`.

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