

# macrolist – Create lists of macros and manipulate them

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v1.2.1, 2021/07/25\*

## Abstract

The `macrolist` package allows you to create lists and manipulate them, with utilities such as `\listforeach` and an implementation of `arr.join()` from Javascript. Contrary to the name of the package, non-macros and groups of macros can be put into an item of the list.

## 1 Usage

The scope of lists is always global. This provides the most consistency and functionality for developers in places that are usually local (part of a group), such as environments and loops.

`\newlist` To create a list, pass in `\newlist{listname}` to create a list with the name `listname`.

The package checks that `listname` is not the name of another list, and will throw an error if another list `listname` has already been defined.

`\listexists` Writing `\listexists{listname}{true}{false}` will execute `true` if `listname` exists and `false` otherwise.

`\listelement` To execute the *i*th element of `listname`, write `\listelement{listname}{i}`. Note that *lists are 1-indexed*, meaning the first element is numbered 1, the second element numbered 2, and so on.

An error will be thrown if `listname` is not a defined list, if *i* is empty, or if *i* is greater than the size of the list.

`\listindexof` This works similar to `indexof` in almost any ordinary programming language. Write `\listindexof{list}{element}` to get the index of where `element` first appears in `list`. If it never does, then the macro will expand to 0.

The command uses `\ifx` instead of `\if`; this means that if you have `\macro` as an element with the definition `this is a macro` (assuming that `this is a macro`

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\*<https://github.com/chennisden/macrolist>

is not an element itself), then `\listindexof{listname}{this is a macro}` will expand to 0.

Because of the implementation of this macro, it can't actually be parsed as a number. (See the 'Limitations' section for more information.)

`\listcontains`

Writing `\listcontains{listname}{element}{true branch}{false branch}` checks whether list `listname` contains `element`, executing `true branch` if it does and `false branch` if it does not.

`\listadd`

To add something to the list `listname`, pass in `\listadd{listname}[position]{element}`, where `position` is an optional argument. If nothing is passed in for `position`, then by default `element` will be added to the end of the list.

`\listremove`

To remove an element in a list, write `\listremove{listname}{index}`.

`\listremove last`

To remove the last element in a list, write `\listremove last{listname}`. This behaves like C++'s `pop_back`.

`\listclear`

To clear a list, write `\listclear{listname}`.

`\listsize`

To get the size of a list, write `\listsize{listname}`.

`\listforeach`

To write a for each loop, write

```
\listforeach{listname}{\element}[begin][end]{action}
```

Note that `begin` and `end` are optional arguments, and by default, they take the values 1 and `\listsize{listname}`. If you pass in `begin`, you must also pass in `end`.

`\listjoin`

Executing `\listjoin{listname}{joiner}` returns all of the elements separated by `joiner`. This behaves like Javascript's `arr.join()`.

## 2 Example

Here is the source code for a small document using `macrolist`.

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{macrolist}

\begin{document}

\newlist{mylist}
\listadd{mylist}{Some text}
% List: Some text
```

```

\newcommand\macro{This is a macro}

\listadd{mylist}{\macro}
% List: Some text, \macro

\listelement{mylist}{1}
% Prints out "Some text"

\listadd{mylist}[1]{Element inserted into beginning}
% List: Element inserted into beginning, Some text, \macro

\listremove{mylist}{1}
% List: Some text, \macro

\listforeach{mylist}{\element}{We're printing out \textbf{\element}. }
% We're printing out \textbf{Some text}. We're printing out \textbf{\macro}.

\listjoin{mylist}{, }
% Some text, \macro

\end{document}

```

### 3 Limitations

The `\listindexof` macro cannot be parsed as a number. This is because we have to compare each element of the list to the passed in element and requires storing the index in a macro, which requires some unexpandable macros. (This is why we do not directly use `\listindexof` when defining `\listcontains`.)

### 4 Implementation details

All internal macros are namespaced to prevent package conflicts.

`\macrolist@exists` One internal macro we use is `\macrolist@exists{listname}`, which checks that `listname` exists. It throws an error otherwise.

```

1 \newcommand*\macrolist@exists[1]{%
2   \ifcsname c@macrolist@list@#1\endcsname
3   \else
4     \PackageError{macrolist}
5       {The first argument is not a defined list}
6       {Make sure you have defined the list before trying to operate on it.}
7   \fi
8 }

```

`\macrolist@inbounds` We use `\macrolist@inbounds{listname}{index}` to check that first, `listname` is a defined list using `\macrolist@exists`, and second, that `index` is within bounds.

It throws an error otherwise.

```

9 \newcommand*{\macrolist@inbounds}[2]{%
10   \macrolist@exists{#1}%
11   %
12   \if\relax\detokenize{#2}
13     \PackageError{macrolist}
14       {No number has been passed into the second argument of your command
15       }{Pass in a number to the second argument of your command.}
16   \fi
17   %
18   \ifnum\numexpr#2 \relax>\listsize{#1}
19     \PackageError{macrolist}
20       {Index out of bounds}
21       {The number you have passed in to the second argument of your command\MessageBreak
22       is out of the bounds of list '#1'.}
23   \fi
24 }
```

## Change History

v1.0.0		in listforeach . . . . .	1
General: Initial version . . . . .	1	Print changelog in	
v1.0.1		documentation . . . . .	1
General: Add “scope is always		v1.1.0	
global” to documentation . . . .	1	General: Add listexists . . . . .	1
Fix date in initial version		v1.1.1	
changes entry . . . . .	1	General: Fix foreach doc by	
Fix v. appearing in front of date		removing incorrect begin . . . . .	2
in document title . . . . .	1	v1.2.0	
Make a couple of defs and lets		General: Add listindexof and	
global to prevent scoping issues	1	listcontains . . . . .	1
v1.0.2		v1.2.1	
General: Added comment markers		General: Fix behavior of listindexof	
to remove pars and fix spacing		and listcontains for empty lists	1