

# Package ‘unittest’

September 7, 2022

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Type** Package

**Title** TAP-Compliant Unit Testing

**Version** 1.5-1

**Date** 2022-09-07

**Description** Concise TAP <<http://testanything.org/>> compliant unit testing package. Authored tests can be run using CMD check with minimal implementation overhead.

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.0)

**Imports** methods

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**BugReports** <https://github.com/ravingmantis/unittest/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Jamie Lentin [aut, cre],  
Anthony Hennessey [aut]

**Maintainer** Jamie Lentin <jm@ravingmantis.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2022-09-07 15:00:02 UTC

## R topics documented:

unittest-package . . . . .	2
ok . . . . .	2
ok_group . . . . .	4
ut_cmp . . . . .	5
ut_cmp_error . . . . .	7

<b>Index</b>	<b>9</b>
--------------	----------

---

unittest-package      *TAP-compliant Unit Testing*

---

### Description

Concise TAP-compliant unit testing package. Authored unit tests can be run using R CMD check with minimal implementation overhead. If you want more features there are other unit testing packages (see 'See Also').

### Details

The `unittest` package provides two functions, `ok` and `ok_group`. The `ok` function prints `ok` when the expression provided evaluates to `TRUE` and prints `not ok` if the expression evaluates to anything else or results in a runtime error; this is the TAP format (<http://testanything.org/>) for reporting test results. The `ok_group` function is a convenience function for grouping related unit tests and produces TAP compliant comments in the output to separate the unit test groups.

A unit test summary is produced at the end of a session when a set of unit tests are run in non-interactive mode, for example when the unit tests are run using `Rscript` or by `R CMD check`. For using with `R CMD check`, see 'I'm writing a package, how do I put tests in it?'.

For a list of all documentation use `library(help="unittest")`. Good places to start are the '[Getting Started](#)' and '[FAQ](#)' vignettes. You can see these by typing `vignette('getting_started', package='unittest')` and `vignette('faq', package='unittest')` respectively.

### Author(s)

Maintainer: Jamie Lentin <[jm@ravingmantis.com](mailto:jm@ravingmantis.com)>, Anthony Hennessey <[ah@ravingmantis.com](mailto:ah@ravingmantis.com)>.

### References

Inspired by Perl's `Test::Simple` (<https://metacpan.org/pod/Test::Simple>).

### See Also

[testthat](#), [RUnit](#), [svUnit](#).

---

ok      *The unittest package's workhorse function*

---

### Description

Report the test of an expression in TAP format.

### Usage

```
ok(test, description)
```

**Arguments**

test	Expression to be tested. Evaluating to TRUE is treated as success, anything else as failure.
description	Character string describing the test. If a description is not given a character representation of the test expression will be used.

**Details**

See [unittest](#) package documentation.

The `unittest.output` option tells `unittest` where output should be sent. This is most useful for vignettes, where sending output to `stderr` separates the `unittest` output from the vignette itself.

**Value**

`ok()` returns whatever was returned when `test` is evaluated. More importantly it has the side effect of printing the result of the test in TAP format.

**Examples**

```
ok(1==1, "1 equals 1")
# ok - 1 equals 1

ok(1==1)
# ok - 1 == 1

ok(1==2, "1 equals 2")
# not ok - 1 equals 2
# # Test returned non-TRUE value:
# # [1] FALSE

ok(all.equal(c(1,2),c(1,2)), "compare vectors")
# ok - compare vectors

fn <- function () stop("oops")
ok(fn(), "something with a coding error")
# not ok - something with a coding error
# # Test resulted in error:
# # oops
# # Whilst evaluating:
# # fn()

ok(c("Some diagnostic", "messages"), "A failure with diagnostic messages")
# not ok - A failure with diagnostic messages
# # Test returned non-TRUE value:
# # Some diagnostic
# # messages

## Send unittest output to stderr()
options(unittest.output = stderr())
ok(ut_cmp_equal(4, 5), "4 == 5? Probably not")
```

```
## Reset unittest output to default (stdout())
options(unittest.output = NULL)
ok(ut_cmp_equal(4, 5), "4 == 5? Probably not")
```

---

ok\_group

*Group associated unit tests*

---

## Description

Group associated unit tests with TAP compliant comments separating the output.

## Usage

```
ok_group(message, tests)
```

## Arguments

message	Character vector describing this group. Will be printed as a comment before the tests are ran.
tests	A code block full of tests.

## Details

Used to group a selection of tests together, for instance you may group the tests relating to a function together.

## Value

Returns NULL.

## Examples

```
ok_group("Test addition", {
  ok(1 + 1 == 2, "Can add 1")
  ok(1 + 3 == 4, "Can add 3")
})
ok_group("Test subtraction", {
  ok(1 - 1 == 0, "Can subtract 1")
  ok(1 - 3 == -2, "Can subtract 3")
})
# # Test addition
# ok - Can add 1
# ok - Can add 3
# # Test subtraction
# ok - Can subtract 1
# ok - Can subtract 3
```

```

# Multiline group message
ok_group(c("Test multiplication", "but not division"),{
  ok(1 * 1 == 1, "Can multiply by 1")
  ok(2 * 3 == 6, "Can multiply by 3")
})
# # Test multiplication
# # but not division
# ok - Can multiply by 1
# ok - Can multiply by 3

```

---

ut\_cmp

*Compare variables with verbose error output*


---

## Description

A wrapper for [all.equal](#) and [identical](#) that provides more useful diagnostics when used in a unittest [ok](#) function.

## Usage

```

ut_cmp_equal(a, b, filter = NULL, deparse_frame = -1, ...)
ut_cmp_identical(a, b, filter = NULL, deparse_frame = -1)

```

## Arguments

a	First item to compare, usually the result of whatever you are testing
b	Second item to compare, usually the expected output of whatever you are testing
filter	An optional filter function, that turns either a or b into text, and prints this out
deparse_frame	Tell <a href="#">sys.call</a> which frame to deparse to get original expressions. Set to -2 when making a helper function, see examples.
...	Other arguments passed directly to <a href="#">all.equal</a>

## Details

For both functions, a and b are first passed to [all.equal](#) (for `ut_cmp_equal()`) or [identical](#) (for `ut_cmp_identical()`). If they match, then the function returns TRUE and your test passes.

If this fails, then we turn both a and b into text, and then use `git diff` to compare the 2 outputs. If you do not have `git` installed, then the 2 outputs will be shown side-by-side.

When using `git diff`, we turn colored output on when outputting to a terminal. You can force this on or off using options (`"cli.num_colors" = 1`) or the `NO_COLOR` or `R_CLI_NUM_COLORS` environment variable.

The step of turning into text is done with the filter function. There are several of these built-in, and it will choose the one that produces the simplest output. This may mean that the output will be

from the `print` function if the differences are obvious, or `str` with many decimal places if there are subtle differences between the 2.

You can also provide your own filter function if there's a particular way you would like to see the data when comparing, for example you can use `write.table` if your data is easiest to understand in tabular output.

## Value

Returns TRUE if a & b are `all.equal` (for `ut_cmp_equal()`) or `identical` (for `ut_cmp_identical()`). Otherwise, returns an `invisible()` character vector of diagnostic strings helping you find where the difference is.

If called directly in an interactive R session, this output will be printed to the console.

## Examples

```
## A function to test:
fn <- function(x) { seq(x) }

## Get it right, and test passes:
ok(ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1,2,3)))
# ok - ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1, 2, 3))

## Get it wrong, and we get told where in the output things are different:
ok(ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1,4,3)))
# not ok - ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1, 4, 3))
# # Test returned non-TRUE value:
# # Mean relative difference: 1
# # --- fn(3)
# # +++ c(1, 4, 3)
# # [1] 1 [-2-]{+4+} 3

## Using a custom filter, we can format the output with write.table:
ok(ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1,4,3), filter = write.table))
# not ok - ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1, 4, 3), filter = write.table)
# # Test returned non-TRUE value:
# # Mean relative difference: 1
# # --- fn(3)
# # +++ c(1, 4, 3)
# # "x"
# # "1" 1
# # "2" [-2-]{+4+}
# # "3" 3

## With ut_cmp_equal, an integer 1 is the same as a numeric 1
ok(ut_cmp_equal(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1)))
# ok - ut_cmp_equal(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1))

## With ut_cmp_identical, they're not
ok(ut_cmp_identical(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1)))
# not ok - ut_cmp_identical(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1))
# # Test returned non-TRUE value:
```

```

# # --- as.numeric(1)
# # +++ as.integer(1)
# # [-num-]{+int+} 1

## all.equal() takes a tolerance parameter, for example:
all.equal(0.01, 0.02, tolerance = 0.1)
# [1] TRUE

## ...we can also give this to to ut_cmp_equal if we want a very
## approximate comparison
ok(ut_cmp_equal(0.01, 0.02, tolerance = 0.1))
# ok - ut_cmp_equal(0.01, 0.02, tolerance = 0.1)

## We can make a comparison function of our own, and use
## deparse_depth to show the right expression in diff output
cmp_noorder <- function (a, b) {
  sortlist <- function (x) if (length(x) > 0) x[order(names(x))] else x
  ut_cmp_identical(sortlist(a), sortlist(b), deparse_depth = -2)
}
ok(cmp_noorder(list(a=1, b=2), list(b=2, a=3)))
# not ok - cmp_noorder(list(a = 1, b = 2), list(b = 2, a = 3))
# # Test returned non-TRUE value:
# # --- list(a = 1, b = 2)
# # +++ list(b = 2, a = 3)
# # $a
# # [1] [-1-]{+3+}
# #
# # $b
# # [1] 2

```

---

ut\_cmp\_error

*Test for and compare errors generated by code*


---

## Description

A helper to catch expected errors and ensure they match what is expected

## Usage

```
ut_cmp_error(code, expected_regexp, ignore.case = FALSE, perl = FALSE, fixed = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

code	Code expression to test, should generate an error
expected_regexp	Regular expression the error should match
ignore.case	Passed to <a href="#">grepl</a>

perl	Passed to <a href="#">grepl</a>
fixed	Passed to <a href="#">grepl</a>

**Value**

Returns TRUE if `exp` generates an error and matches `expected_regexp`. Returns a string with expected and actual error if `exp` generates an error but does not match. Returns "No error returned" if `exp` does not generate an error.

**Examples**

```
ok(ut_cmp_error({
  stop("Hammer time")
}, "hammer", ignore.case = TRUE), "Returned a hammer-based error")
```



# Index

## \* unit testing

unittest-package, 2

all.equal, 5, 6

grepl, 7, 8

identical, 5, 6

ok, 2, 2, 5

ok\_group, 2, 4

print, 6

stderr, 3

str, 6

sys.call, 5

unittest, 3

unittest (unittest-package), 2

unittest-package, 2

ut\_cmp, 5

ut\_cmp\_equal (ut\_cmp), 5

ut\_cmp\_error, 7

ut\_cmp\_identical (ut\_cmp), 5