If you’re just getting started with Docker containers, you may be a bit confused how there doesn’t seem to be a command called “list” to show the containers available on your system. There is indeed no such command, but listing functionality is certainly there.

**List currently running Docker containers**

You need the `docker ps` command – it lists containers in a readable table:

```
root@dcs:~ # docker ps
CONTAINER ID   IMAGE                  COMMAND                  CREATED                 STATUS                  PORTS                  NAMES
1b8b1657736e   datadog/agent:latest  "/init"                  8 months ago            Up 8 months (healthy) 8125/udp, 8126/tcp dd-agent
37d4745794419a9  mariadb:latest       "docker-entrypoint.s..." 8 months ago            Up 8 months 3306/tcp db
32cd3e477546    nginx:latest         "nginx -g 'daemon of..." 11 months ago  Up 4 months 0.0.0.0:80->80/tcp, 0.0.0.0:443->443/tcp nginx
```

Executed without any command line options, `docker ps` shows only the active containers – the ones running at this very moment.
List all the Docker containers

In case you experience some trouble with one of the containers, where the Docker container will start and immediately go offline, your `docker ps` won’t help – by the time you run it the container will disappear from the list.

This is where you need to use the `--all` command line option:

```
root@dcs:~ # docker ps --all
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAINER ID</th>
<th>IMAGE</th>
<th>COMMAND</th>
<th>CREATED</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PORTS</th>
<th>NAMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f4b4ae616898</td>
<td>wordpress</td>
<td>&quot;docker-entrypoint.s...&quot;</td>
<td>7 months ago</td>
<td>Exited (0)</td>
<td></td>
<td>competent_johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b8b1657736e</td>
<td>datadog/agent:latest</td>
<td>&quot;/init&quot;</td>
<td>8 months ago</td>
<td>Up</td>
<td>8125/udp, 8126/tcp</td>
<td>dd-agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c745794419a9</td>
<td>mariadb:latest</td>
<td>&quot;docker-entrypoint.s...&quot;</td>
<td>8 months ago</td>
<td>Up</td>
<td>3306/tcp</td>
<td>db</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4c82fa3d5d1c</td>
<td>mariadb:latest</td>
<td>&quot;docker-entrypoint.s...&quot;</td>
<td>9 months ago</td>
<td>Exited (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td>db</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78fd23e82bba</td>
<td>confluence:latest</td>
<td>&quot;/sbin/tini -- /entr...&quot;</td>
<td>11 months ago</td>
<td>Exited (143)</td>
<td></td>
<td>wiki_https</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73c9ca67c77b</td>
<td>confluence:latest</td>
<td>&quot;/sbin/tini -- /entr...&quot;</td>
<td>11 months ago</td>
<td>Exited (143)</td>
<td></td>
<td>wiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56728d0f1ab5</td>
<td>mariadb:latest</td>
<td>&quot;docker-entrypoint.s...&quot;</td>
<td>11 months ago</td>
<td>Exited (10)</td>
<td></td>
<td>mariadb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32cd3e477546</td>
<td>nginx:latest</td>
<td>&quot;nginx -g 'daemon of...&quot;</td>
<td>11 months ago</td>
<td>Up</td>
<td>0.0.0.0:80-&gt;80/tcp, 0.0.0.0:443-&gt;443/tcp</td>
<td>nginx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>496b0d371a70</td>
<td>hello-world</td>
<td>&quot;/hello&quot;</td>
<td>11 months ago</td>
<td>Exited (0)</td>
<td></td>
<td>stoic_brattain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List containers filtered by a specified criteria

You’ll soon realise that on a busy Docker host you probably need to apply some filter when listing containers. This functionality allows you to filter lists by many common Docker container properties.

For example, this is how we can list just the containers with a specific name:

```
root@dcs:~ # docker ps -f name=nginx
```
And this is how you can show just the Docker containers with “exited” status:

```
root@dcr:~ # docker ps -f status=exited
CONTAINER ID IMAGE COMMAND CREATED STATUS PORTS NAMES
f4b4ae616898 wordpress "docker-entrypoint.s..." 7 months ago Exited (0) 7 months ago competent_johnson
4c82fa3d5d1c mariadb:latest "docker-entrypoint.s..." 9 months ago Exited (1) 9 months ago mysql
78fd23e82bba confluence:latest "/sbin/tini -- /entr..." 11 months ago Exited (143) 10 months ago wiki_https
73c9ca67c77b confluence:latest "/sbin/tini -- /entr..." 11 months ago Exited (143) 11 months ago wiki
56728d0f0fab5 mariadb:latest "docker-entrypoint.s..." 11 months ago Exited (0) 10 months ago mariadb
496b0d371a70 hello-world "/hello" 11 months ago Exited (0) 11 months ago stoic_brattain
```

That’s it for today! Let me know if you’re using Docker and whether you need help with anything!

See Also

- [Official Docker page](#)
- [docker_ps documentation](#)