Cheat sheet

PART 1 — Getting Help

1.1 Use `man` to read a manual page

Run:

```
man ls
```

Exit using `q` .

1.2 Use `tool -h`

```
ls -h
```

1.3 Use `tool --help`

```
ls --help
```

1.4 Use explainShell

Go to:

```
https://explainshell.com/
```

In the search bar, type:

```
ls -la /etc
```

Observe how the tool breaks down each part.

PART 2 — Navigation

2.1 Check where you are

```
pwd
```

2.2 List files

```
ls
ls -l
ls -la
```

2.3 Navigate around

```
cd /tmp
pwd
cd ~
pwd
```

PART 3 — Creating & Managing Files

3.1 Create an empty file

```
touch notes.txt
```

3.2 Create a new directory

```
mkdir labfolder
```

3.3 Create nested directories

```
mkdir -p projects/2025/reports
```

PART 4 — Moving & Copying

4.1 Move (rename) a file

```
mv notes.txt notes_backup.txt
```

4.2 Copy a file

```
cp notes_backup.txt copy_notes.txt
```

4.3 Copy a directory

```
cp -R projects/ archive_projects/
```

Verify:

```
ls archive_projects/
```

PART 5 — Editing With Nano

5.1 Create and edit a file

```
nano story.txt
```

Inside nano:

- Type any text
- Press **Ctrl + W** to search for a word
- Press **Ctrl + O** to save
- Press **Ctrl + X** to exit

Nano cheat sheet:

https://www.nano-editor.org/dist/latest/cheatsheet.html

PART 6 — Viewing File Contents

6.1 Use cat to display the file

```
cat story.txt
```

6.2 Combine commands using a pipeline

```
cat story.txt | grep "yourword"
```

Replace `"yourword"` with a word from your file.

PART 7 — Searching With `find`

7.1 Search for your file

```
find ~ -name "story.txt"
```

7.2 Search for all `.txt` files

```
find ~ -type f -name "*.txt"
```

7.3 Practice using quickref

Visit:

```
https://quickref.me/find.html
```

Choose any new option and try it.

7.4 Redirect errors

If your search returns permission errors:

```
find / -name "*.conf" 2>/dev/null
```

This hides all permission denied messages.