What is a Shell?

- A shell is a user interface to access the operating system's services.
- Interprets user commands and scripts.
- Common in both Windows and Linux environments.

Shells in Microsoft (Windows)

- CMD (Command Prompt): Legacy shell with basic capabilities.
- PowerShell: Modern shell using .NET, passes objects, powerful for automation.

Shells in Linux

- Bash (Bourne Again Shell): Default in most distros, scripting-friendly.
- Zsh: Extended shell with customization and plugins (e.g., Oh My Zsh).

Shell Comparison Table

| Feature | CMD | PowerShell | Bash | Zsh |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Platform | Windows | Cross-platform | Linux/macOS/ WSL | Linux/macOS |
| Default For | Older Windows | Windows 10+ | Most Linux distros | macOS/Linux users |
| Syntax | Simple | Object- oriented | Unix-style | Enhanced Bash |
| Script Extension | .bat/.cmd | .ps1 | .sh | .zsh |
| Scripting Power | Basic | Very High | High | Very High |
| Object Handling | Strings | Objects | Text | Text |
| Customization | Low | Moderate | High | Very High |
| Tab Completion | Limited | Advanced | Yes | Advanced |
| Learning Curve | Low | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate |