

# COMMON TERMINAL COMMANDS TO USE IN WINDOWS, MAC OS & LINUX

written by Linh Tran, 2022

Below are popular commands that you can use either on Windows (PowerShell), Mac OS or Linux.

In the **Terminal** window, run the commands in the column **Examples** and figure out what they do.

No	Command	Description	Examples
1	<b>pwd</b>	Print working directory	<b>pwd</b>
2	<b>mkdir</b> [dir_name]	Make a new directory	<b>mkdir</b> tmp <b>mkdir</b> tmp/"My Folder"
3	<b>ls</b> [dir_name]	List content of a directory	<b>ls</b> <b>ls</b> ./tmp
4	<b>cd</b> [dir_name]	Change directory	<b>cd</b> tmp (check with <b>pwd</b> ) <b>cd</b> .. (check with <b>pwd</b> )
5	<b>touch</b> [file_name] (on MacOS and Linux only)	Create an empty file with the given name	On MacOS and Linux: <b>touch</b> file.txt  On Windows: <b>cd</b> > file.txt
6	<b>cp</b> [src_file_name] [dest_file_name]	Copy a source file to a destination file	<b>cp</b> file.txt ./tmp/
7	<b>mv</b> [source] [dest]	Move a source file/ directory to a destination location (can also rename it at that time)	<b>mv</b> file.txt ./newfile.txt
8	<b>cat</b> [file_name]	Print the content of a file	echo "Hello" > newfile.txt <b>cat</b> newfile.txt
9	<b>rm</b> [dir_name] [file_name]	Remove files and directories, including the non-empty directories	<b>rm</b> empty.txt <b>rm</b> -r tmp
9	<b>clear</b>	Clear the terminal	<b>clear</b>

## Tips:

- . means the current directory
- .. means the parent directory of the current directory
- You can type a few characters of an existing file or directory name and hit the **TAB** key to **autocomplete** the file or directory name
- Press **UP** and **DOWN** key to show the previous or next command
- You can learn more about Linux commands by yourself at [Basic Linux Commands for Beginners](#).

**Practice Challenge:** Only use commands in the terminal, create the following directory tree.

