

# Basic shell commands

(Excerpts from <http://www.vectorsite.net/tsshell.html#m4>)

## 1 Useful commands:

```
cat                # Lists a file or files sequentially.
cd                 # Change directories.
chmod +x           # Set execute permissions.
chmod 666          # Set universal read-write permissions.
cp                 # Copy files.
expr 2 + 2         # Add 2 + 2.
fgrep              # Search for string match.
grep               # Search for string pattern matches.
grep -v            # Search for no match.
grep -n            # List line numbers of matches.
grep -i            # Ignore case.
grep -l            # Only list file names for a match.
head -5 source.txt # List first 5 lines.
ls                 # Give a simple listing of files.
mkdir              # Make a directory.
more               # Displays a file a screenfull at a time.
mv                 # Move or rename files.
paste f1 f2        # Paste files by columns.
pg                 # Variant on "more".
pwd                # Print working directory.
rm                 # Remove files.
rm -r              # Remove entire directory subtree.
rmdir              # Remove a directory.
sed 's/txt/TXT/g'  # Scan and replace text.
sed 's/txt//'       # Scan and delete text.
sed '/txt/q'        # Scan and then quit.
sort               # Sort input.
sort +1            # Skip first field in sorting.
sort -n            # Sort numbers.
sort -r            # Sort in reverse order.
sort -u            # Eliminate redundant lines in output.
tail -5 source.txt # List last 5 lines.
tail +5 source.txt # List all lines after line 5.
tr '[A-Z]' '[a-z]' # Translate to lowercase.
tr '[a-z]' '[A-Z]' # Translate to uppercase.
tr -d '_'          # Delete underscores.
uniq               # Find unique lines.
wc                 # Word count (characters, words, lines).
wc -w              # Word count only.
wc -l              # Line count.
```

## 2 Elementary shell capabilities:

```
shvar="Test 1"     # Initialize a shell variable.
echo $shvar         # Display a shell variable.
export shvar        # Allow subshells to use shell variable.
mv $f ${f}2         # Append "2" to file name in shell variable.
$1, $2, $3, ...     # Command-line arguments.
$0                  # Shell-program name.
$#                  # Number of arguments.
$*                  # Complete argument list.
shift 2              # Shift argument variables by 2.
read v              # Read input into variable "v".
. mycmds             # Execute commands in file.
```

### 3 IF statement:

```
if [ "$1" = "red" ]
then
    echo "Illegal code."
    exit
elif [ "$1" = "blue" ]
then
    echo "Illegal code."
    exit
else
    echo "Access granted."
fi
```

[ "\$shvar" = "red" ]	String comparison, true if match.
[ "\$shvar" != "red" ]	String comparison, true if no match.
[ "\$shvar" = "" ]	True if null variable.
[ "\$shvar" != "" ]	True if not null variable.
[ "\$nval" -eq 0 ]	Integer test; true if equal to 0.
[ "\$nval" -ge 0 ]	Integer test; true if greater than or equal to 0.
[ "\$nval" -gt 0 ]	Integer test; true if greater than 0.
[ "\$nval" -le 0 ]	Integer test; true if less than or equal to 0.
[ "\$nval" -lt 0 ]	Integer test; true if less than 0.
[ "\$nval" -ne 0 ]	Integer test; true if not equal to 0.
[ -d tmp ]	True if "tmp" is a directory.
[ -f tmp ]	True if "tmp" is an ordinary file.
[ -r tmp ]	True if "tmp" can be read.
[ -s tmp ]	True if "tmp" is nonzero length.
[ -w tmp ]	True if "tmp" can be written.
[ -x tmp ]	True if "tmp" is executable.

### 4 CASE statement:

```
case "$1"
in
    "red")    echo "Illegal code."
              exit;;
    "blue")   echo "Illegal code."
              exit;;
    *)        echo "Access granted.>";
esac
```

### 5 Loop statements:

```
for nvar in 1 2 3 4 5
do
    echo $nvar
done

for file          # Cycle through command-line arguments.
do
    echo $file
done

while [ "$n" != "Joe" ]      # Or:   until [ "$n" = "Joe" ]
do
    echo "What's your name?"
    read n
    echo $n
done
```

There are "break" and "continue" commands that exit or skip to the end of loops as the need arises.