Problem checklist

The system says something like "cp: cannot copy file to itself."
> If the copy is in the same directory as the original, the filenames must be different.

The system says something like "cp: filename: no such file or directory."
> The system can't find the file you want to copy. Check for a typing mistake. If a file isn't in the working directory, be sure to use its pathname.

The system says something like "cp: permission denied."
> You may not have permission to copy a file created by someone else or copy it into a directory that does not belong to you. Use **ls –l** to find the owner and the permissions for the file, or **ls –ld** to check the directory. If you feel that you should be able to copy a file, ask the file's owner or a system staff person to change its access modes.

Copying files across a network

The **cp** program works on whatever computer you're logged onto. But, unless your computer has a networked filesystem (see the section "The Directory Tree" in Chapter 3), you can't copy files to other computers with **cp**. To do this, see the section "Transferring Files" in Chapter 6.

Renaming and Moving Files with mv

To rename a file, use **mv** (move). The **mv** program can also move a file from one directory to another.

The **mv** command has the same syntax as the **cp** command:

> mv *old new*

old is the old name of the file and *new* is the new name. **mv** will write over existing files, which is handy for updating old versions of a file. If you don't want to overwrite an old file, be sure that the new name is unique. If your **cp** has an **-i** option for safety, your **mv** probably has one too.

```
$ mv chap1 intro
$
```

The previous example changed the file named *chap1* to *intro*. If you list your files with **ls**, you will see that the filename *chap1* has disappeared.