

Any linux distribution includes a large number of commands,  
**But you don't need to know each one** , at least for this course.

So I've chosen **18** of the most important ones to present here  
(They are not in any particular order and are as brief as possible)

1. **uname** - View information about your current Linux environment.  
(Use **-a** switch for complete information)

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ uname  
Linux  
  
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ uname -a  
Linux kali 5.10.0-kali3-amd64 #1 SMP Debian 5.10.13-1kali1
```

2. **pwd** - Prints full path of your Present Working Directory (folder you're in).

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ pwd  
/home/avinash
```

3. **ls** - Shows contents of directories.  
(Use **-la** switches for the most detailed output)



```

(avinash@kali) - [~/Downloads]
$ ls
28961275342692330030c99shell.zip      'Wallpaper by ro
c99shell.php                          xampp-linux-x64
'Wallpaper by nejc soklic (unsplash).jpg' 'zip password to

(avinash@kali) - [~/Downloads]
$ ls -la
total 163176
drwxr-xr-x  2 avinash avinash    4096 May 20 08:16 .
drwxr-xr-x 23 avinash avinash    4096 May 31 15:28 ..
-rw-r--r--  1 avinash avinash  471316 Apr 27 20:22 28961
-rw-r--r--  1 avinash avinash   656565 May 18 2018 c99sh
-rw-r--r--  1 avinash avinash  2867860 Mar 26 16:27 'Wallp
-rw-r--r--  1 avinash avinash  1002398 Mar 26 16:19 'Wallp
-rwxr-xr-x  1 avinash avinash 162063836 May 20 08:16 xampp
-rw-r--r--  1 avinash avinash      23 Aug  7 2020 'zip p

```

4. **history** - Lists all the previous commands you entered (stored in bash shell), in case you need to repeat any.

```

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ history
1 history

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ some_random_command
some_random_command: command not found

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ another_random_command
another_random_command: command not found

(avinash@kali) - [~]

```

```
(ash@kali) ~$  
└─$ history  
1 history  
2 some_random_command  
3 another_random_command
```

5. `whoami` - Prints the effective user / username to find out who you are logged in as.

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ whoami  
avinash
```

6. `ifconfig` - View or configure the network interface on your system. (I generally use it only to check my IP Address on different interfaces)

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ ifconfig  
eth0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500  
    inet 10.10.10.128 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast  
    inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fe7b:dfe5 prefixlen 64 scope  
    ether 00:0c:29:7b:df:e5 txqueuelen 1000 (Ethernet)  
    RX packets 47 bytes 5094 (4.9 KiB)  
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0  
    TX packets 13 bytes 1526 (1.4 KiB)  
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 colli
```

7. `cat` - Shows the contents of a file you want to read in the terminal window.

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ cat a.txt  
hello, this is some random text in a.txt file
```

8. `clear` - Clears the terminal screen.

. Screenshot before Clearing the Screen

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ cat a.txt  
hello, this is some random text in a.txt file  
  
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ clear
```

a. Screenshot after Clearing the screen

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$
```

9. **cp** - Copies files from the current directory to a different directory.  
**Format:** You need to type **cp**, the file's name, and the destination's directory.

```
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ pwd  
/home/avinash  
  
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ cp a.txt /home/avinash/Desktop  
  
(avinash@kali) - [~]  
$ cd Desktop  
  
(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]  
$ ls  
a.txt          org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop  'SQ  
firefox-esr.desktop  pluma.desktop                    xf
```

So here, I copied a file called a.txt from /home/avinash to Desktop.

So here, I copied a file called `data` from `memoria` window to Desktop.

10. `mv` - Moves file (instead of making a copy) from current directory to a different directory.

**Format:** You need to type `mv`, the file's name, and the destination's directory.



```

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ pwd
/home/avinash

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ mv b.txt /home/avinash/Desktop

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ cd Desktop

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ ls
b.txt      firefox-esr.desktop  new_zip.zip
Example    myfile.txt           org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop

```

So here, I moved a file called b.txt from /home/avinash to Desktop.

11. **rm** - Removes / delete a file or folder. Be very careful, It PERMANENTLY deletes.
  - Deleting a file with rm command without any special switches

```

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ ls
a.txt      org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop
firefox-esr.desktop  pluma.desktop

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ rm a.txt

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ ls
firefox-esr.desktop  pluma.desktop
org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop

```

Ok, a.txt file has been permanently deleted.

- a. Deleting a directory (folder) with rm command needs -r switch

```

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ ls
firefox-esr.desktop      pluma.desktop  xfce4-t
org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop  SQLi_Labs

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ rm -r SQLi_Labs

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ ls
firefox-esr.desktop  org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop

```

Ok, SQLi\_Labs folder has been permanently deleted.

12. **mkdir** - Makes a directory with a specific name.

**Format:** You need to type mkdir and the name of directory you want to create.

```

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop/Example]
$ ls

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop/Example]
$ mkdir 123

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop/Example]
$ ls
123

```

13. **uptime** - Displays the time for which the system has running.

```

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ uptime
16:37:43 up 19 min, 1 user, load average: 0.11, 0.15, 0.

```

14. `locate` - Locates a file in the system. Use `-i` switch to be case insensitive.

```

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ locate file.txt
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/data/wmap/wmap_sample_profile.txt
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/vendor/bundle/ruby/2.7.0/gems/rubygems-3.0.3/lib/rubygems/commands/locate_command.rb
file.txt

(avinash@kali) - [~]
$ locate -i File.txt
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/data/wmap/wmap_sample_profile.txt
/usr/share/metasploit-framework/vendor/bundle/ruby/2.7.0/gems/rubygems-3.0.3/lib/rubygems/commands/locate_command.rb
file.txt

```

15. **grep** - Searches through all the text in a given file.  
**Format:** You need to type grep, the text you wanna search for, and the file to be searched.

```

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ grep important_text myfile.txt
important_text

```

16. **zip** - Compresses your files into a zip archive.

```

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ zip new_zip myfile.txt
adding: myfile.txt (stored 0%)

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ ls
Example      myfile.txt  org.flameshot.Flameshot.desktop
firefox-esr.desktop  new_zip.zip  pluma.desktop

```

17. **unzip** - Extracts the zipped files from a zip archive.

17. `unzip` - Extracts the zipped files from a zip archive.

```
(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ unzip new_zip.zip
Archive:  new_zip.zip
replace myfile.txt? [y]es, [n]o, [A]ll, [N]one, [r]ename: y
extracting: myfile.txt
```

18. `shutdown` - Shutdown your linux system. By default, it will shutdown in 1 minute. Use `shutdown now` to shut down immediately. You can cancel a shutdown by `shutdown -c`.

```
(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ shutdown
Shutdown scheduled for Tue 2021-06-01 17:02:08 IST, use 'sh

(avinash@kali) - [~/Desktop]
$ shutdown -c
```

This should be pretty enough for you to know right now...  
Of course, you will be more clear about them with time  
**And we'll see more commands during the course later :)**  
~ Avinash Yadav

