grep

grep lets you search files for text

$ grep bananas foo.txt

Here are some of my favourite grep command line arguments!

-E aka egrep

Use if you want regexps like ".+" to work. otherwise you need to use ".\+"

-r

recursive! Search all the files in a directory.

-i

case insensitive

-v

invert match: find all lines that don't match

-o

only print the matching part of the line (not the whole line)

-A
-B
-C

Show context for your search.

$ grep -A 3 foo

will show 3 lines of context after a match

-l

only show the filenames of the files that matched

-a

search binaries: treat binary data like it's text instead of ignoring it!

-F

don't treat the match string as a regex

eg $ grep -F ...

grep alternatives

ack ag ripgrep

(better for searching code!)