

Linux CLI Cheat-Sheet (Rahul's List Explained)

#	Command	What it does / why you care
1	<code>pwd</code>	Print absolute path of present working directory.
2	<code>ls</code>	List names of files & dirs (alphabetical).
3	<code>ls -R</code>	Recurse into sub-dirs and list everything.
4	<code>ls -t</code>	Sort by modification time, newest first.
5	<code>ls -l</code>	Long format: perms, owner, size, date, name.
6	<code>ls -lt</code>	Long listing sorted by time.
8	<code>ls -la</code>	Long + show hidden files (dot-files).
9	<code>ls -lRa</code>	Long, recursive, all files (hidden too).
10	<code>ls -lr</code>	Reverse whatever order is currently used.
11	<code>ls -s</code>	Show allocated blocks next to each name.
12	<code>ls *js</code>	List only JavaScript files.
13	<code>ls Zoo*</code>	List files whose names start with "Zoo".
14	<code>ls ..</code>	List parent directory without moving.
15	<code>cd</code>	Change directory (home dir if no arg).
16	<code>cd ..</code>	Go up one level.
17	<code>cd ../../</code>	Go up two levels.
18	<code>touch f</code>	Create empty file or update its timestamp.
19	<code>cat f</code>	Dump whole file to terminal.
20	<code>cat > f</code>	Type text; Ctrl-D saves & overwrites file.
21	<code>cat >> f</code>	Append typed text to file.
22	<code>mkdir d</code>	Create directory "d".
23	<code>mkdir d && cd d</code>	Create and step inside in one go.
24	<code>mkdir -p a/b/c</code>	Create nested directory path.
25	<code>mv old new</code>	Rename or move file/dir.
26	<code>mv path/old path/new</code>	Same as 25 with full paths.
27	<code>cp f new</code>	Copy file.
28	<code>cp -r d new</code>	Copy directory recursively.
29	<code>rm f</code>	Delete file (irreversible).
30	<code>rm -r d</code>	Delete directory and everything inside.
31	<code>chmod ugo-rwx f</code>	Remove all permissions from everybody.
31b	<code>chmod -R ugo-rwx d</code>	Same, recursive for directory.
32	<code>chmod u+x f</code>	Give owner execute permission.
33	<code>chmod g+wx f</code>	Give group write & execute.
34	<code>chmod u-x f</code>	Remove owner execute.
35	<code>chmod 664 f</code>	Numeric: rw-rw-r--.
36	<code>echo 'msg'</code>	Print message to terminal.
37	<code>head f</code>	First 10 lines.
38	<code>tail f</code>	Last 10 lines.
39	<code>head -20 f</code>	First 20 lines.
40	<code>tail -n +25 head -5</code>	Lines 25-29 only.
41	<code>wc f</code>	Lines, words, characters count.
42	<code>grep "pat" f</code>	Show lines containing pattern.
43	<code>grep "pat" f wc -l</code>	Count matching lines.
44	<code>grep -c "pat" f</code>	Same as 43, built-in count.
45	<code>grep -h "pat" f</code>	Suppress file name prefix.
46	<code>grep -hi "pat" f</code>	Case-insensitive + -h.
47	<code>grep -hir "pat" d</code>	Recursive, case-insensitive search.
48	<code>grep -lin "pat" f</code>	Show line numbers too.
49	<code>grep -linw "pat" f</code>	Whole-word, case-insensitive, numbered.
50	<code>grep -o "pat" f</code>	Print only the matched text.
51	<code>grep -w "pat" f</code>	Whole-word match.
52	<code>history</code>	List previous commands.
53	<code>bash script</code>	Run file as Bash program.
54	<code>grep "ERROR" log</code>	All error lines.
55	<code>grep -v "INFO" log</code>	Invert: skip INFO lines.
56	<code>grep -A 5 ERROR log</code>	Error line + 5 after.
56b	<code>grep -B 5 ERROR log</code>	5 lines before error.
56c	<code>grep -C 5 ERROR log</code>	5 lines before & after.
57	<code>sed -n '/ERROR/ p' f</code>	Print only ERROR lines.
58	<code>sed 's/ERROR/CRITICAL/' f</code>	Replace first ERROR per line.

#	Command	What it does / why you care
59	<code>sed -ibackup 's/E/C/' f</code>	In-place edit with backup.
60	<code>sed '3 s/E/C/' f</code>	Replace only on line 3.
60b	<code>sed '3,5 s/E/C/' f</code>	Replace on lines 3-5.
60c	<code>sed -n '3,./ERROR/p' f</code>	Print from line 3 to first ERROR.
61	<code>awk '/ERROR/{print \$0}' f</code>	Print ERROR lines.
62	<code>awk '{gsub(/E/,"C"); print}' f</code>	Global replace E→C.
63	<code>awk 'BEGIN{print "HEADER"} {print} END{print "FOOTER"}' f</code>	Add header & footer.
64	<code>awk '{print \$1, \$2}' f</code>	First two columns.
65	<code>awk -F"," '{print \$1, \$2}' f</code>	CSV: first two fields.
66	<code>awk '{count[\$2]++} END{print count["ERROR"]}' f</code>	Count occurrences in 2nd column.
67	<code>awk '\$1>1598863888' log</code>	Rows whose first column > epoch.