

Privileges

sudo *command* - run *command* as root
sudo -s - open a root shell
sudo -s -u *user* - open a shell as *user*
sudo -k - forget sudo passwords
gksudo *command* - visual sudo dialog (GNOME)
kdesudo *command* - visual sudo dialog (KDE)
sudo visudo - edit /etc/sudoers
gksudo nautilus - root file manager (GNOME)
kdesudo konqueror - root file manager (KDE)
passwd - change your password

Display

sudo /etc/init.d/gdm restart - restart X and return to login (GNOME)
sudo /etc/init.d/kdm restart - restart X and return to login (KDE)
(file) **/etc/X11/xorg.conf** - display configuration
sudo dexconf - reset xorg.conf configuration
Ctrl+Alt+Bksp - restart X display if frozen
Ctrl+Alt+FN - switch to tty *N*
Ctrl+Alt+F7 - switch back to X display

System Services¹

start *service* - start job *service* (Upstart)
stop *service* - stop job *service* (Upstart)
status *service* - check if *service* is running (Upstart)
/etc/init.d/*service* start - start *service* (SysV)
/etc/init.d/*service* stop - stop *service* (SysV)
/etc/init.d/*service* status - check *service* (SysV)
/etc/init.d/*service* restart - restart *service* (SysV)
runlevel - get current runlevel

Package Management¹

apt-get update - refresh available updates
apt-get upgrade - upgrade all packages
apt-get dist-upgrade - upgrade with package replacements; upgrade Ubuntu version
apt-get install *pkg* - install *pkg*
apt-get purge *pkg* - uninstall *pkg*
apt-get autoremove - remove obsolete packages
apt-get -f install - try to fix broken packages
dpkg --configure -a - try to fix broken packages
dpkg -i *pkg.deb* - install file *pkg.deb*
(file) **/etc/apt/sources.list** - APT repository list

Network

ifconfig - show network information
iwconfig - show wireless information
sudo iwlist scan - scan for wireless networks
sudo /etc/init.d/networking restart - reset network for manual configurations
(file) **/etc/network/interfaces** - manual configuration
ifup *interface* - bring *interface* online
ifdown *interface* - disable *interface*

Special Packages

ubuntu-desktop - standard Ubuntu environment
kubuntu-desktop - KDE desktop
xubuntu-desktop - XFCE desktop
ubuntu-minimal - core Ubuntu utilities
ubuntu-standard - standard Ubuntu utilities
ubuntu-restricted-extras - non-free, but useful
kubuntu-restricted-extras - KDE of the above
xubuntu-restricted-extras - XFCE of the above
build-essential - packages used to compile programs
linux-image-generic - latest generic kernel image
linux-headers-generic - latest build headers

Firewall¹

ufw enable - turn on the firewall
ufw disable - turn off the firewall
ufw default allow - allow all connections by default
ufw default deny - drop all connections by default
ufw status - current status and rules
ufw allow *port* - allow traffic on *port*
ufw deny *port* - block *port*
ufw deny from *ip* - block *ip* address

Application Names

nautilus - file manager (GNOME)
dolphin - file manager (KDE)
konqueror - web browser (KDE)
kate - text editor (KDE)
gedit - text editor (GNOME)

System

Recovery - Type the phrase "REISUB" while holding down Alt and SysRq (PrintScrn) with about 1 second between each letter. Your system will reboot.
lsb_release -a - get Ubuntu version
uname -r - get kernel version
uname -a - get all kernel information

1. Prefix commands with sudo to run.