

cse15l-lab-reports

Interesting Options with `less`

What is `less` ?

`less` is a command used to display the contents of file or command output, page by page. It can easily help you navigate through the pages - forward and backward through the file.

Notable Differences with Similar Commands

It has faster load times when compared to `vim` or `nano` - making it the ideal command for reading large files. It is similar to `more`, but has more commands similar to `vi` text editor, and supports horizontal scrolling, live monitoring, etc. `less` is somewhat of an improved `more`.

Syntax for using `less`


```
less [OPTIONS] filename [filename2]
```

Interesting Options

I will be demonstrating all the examples on the file:

written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt and WhatToJapan.txt

However, I will only include one screenshot per option (one per 2 examples), because the output of `less` is a new window, and each option behaves similarly regardless of the file.

For reference, running `less written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt` opens the following window. Running the `less` command with no options on WhatToIndia.txt

- `-N` : displays the line count for every line (as with most code editors like VSCode) for example: try running `less -N written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt` and

```
less -N written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToJapan.txt
```

```

1
2
3
4
5
6      What to Do
7      Sports
8      One thing the Indians enjoyed about the British was their
9      enthusiasm for sports – hockey and cricket in particular. In return,
10     the British learned the delights of polo (imported with the Mughals
11     from Persia and Afghanistan) and a kind of game-hunting that made
12     grouse-shooting seem tame.
13     Today, with the exception of game-hunting, sporting life in
14     India is still very active. Delhi in particular has very modern
15     facilities, many built for the Asian Games in 1982. Just be careful to
16     adapt your activities to the climate, and avoid going out in the midday
17     sun.
18     Participant Sports
19     Swimming is a natural first choice. Many first-class hotels
20     in leading cities have swimming pools, but there are a few precautions
21     you should take when swimming elsewhere. For health reasons, it is best
22     to avoid swimming in rivers, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs – your body
23     is unlikely to be able to deal with some of the other things swimming
24     around with you.
25     Beach swimming is best at the recognized resorts rather than
26     at the major port cities. In Mumbai, both Juhu and Chowpatty beaches
27     are, for instance, definitely a bad idea, and though the Marina beaches
28     in Chennai are cleaner, there may be sharks. The best resort beaches
travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt

```

- `-X` : it keeps the contents of the file on the screen, until where the user has scrolled. for example: try running `less -X written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt` and `less -X written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToJapan.txt`

```

What to Do
Sports
One thing the Indians enjoyed about the British was their
enthusiasm for sports – hockey and cricket in particular. In return,
the British learned the delights of polo (imported with the Mughals
from Persia and Afghanistan) and a kind of game-hunting that made
grouse-shooting seem tame.
Today, with the exception of game-hunting, sporting life in
India is still very active. Delhi in particular has very modern
facilities, many built for the Asian Games in 1982. Just be careful to
adapt your activities to the climate, and avoid going out in the midday
sun.
Participant Sports
Swimming is a natural first choice. Many first-class hotels
in leading cities have swimming pools, but there are a few precautions
you should take when swimming elsewhere. For health reasons, it is best
to avoid swimming in rivers, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs – your body
is unlikely to be able to deal with some of the other things swimming
around with you.
Beach swimming is best at the recognized resorts rather than
at the major port cities. In Mumbai, both Juhu and Chowpatty beaches
are, for instance, definitely a bad idea, and though the Marina beaches
in Chennai are cleaner, there may be sharks. The best resort beaches
are on the Malabar coast at Kovalam, Goa, and, smaller but charming,
Cochin. Kovalam also has surfing, but be careful of strong currents. On
the east coast, try Puri, south of Calcutta, or Pondicherry.
Sailing is possible at nearly all of the resorts. In
Chennai, you can rent a catamaran and, if you're staying at the Taj in
Mumbai, you should be able to obtain a guest membership at the nearby
Yacht Club.
Fishing is very popular in India, and although it is almost
entirely a freshwater proposition, you will find it very good. The
indigenous mahseer, a distant relative of the carp, which can weigh as
ap@Apples-MacBook-Pro-3 written_2 %

```

- `-s` : chops long lines longer than the width of the screen to be chopped rather than wrapped. So, you would need to use the right arrow to see what's to the right, instead of it wrapping down. This preserves the line length and structure of the file. for example: try running `less -S written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt` and `less -S`

written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToJapan.txt ![Demonstrating the -S option on WhatToIndia.jpg(S.jpg)]

- +G : opens at the end of the file instead of the beginning. In general, + as a modifier runs the following command in less while opening. for example: try running `less -X written_2/travel_guides/berlitz1/WhatToIndia.txt` and `less -X written_2/travel_guides/berlitz2/WhatToJapan.txt`

