

# Top 50 Linux Commands You Must Know (With Examples)

**1. ls** – List directory contents

ls -l

**2. pwd** – Print working directory

pwd

**3. cd** – Change directory

cd /home/user/Documents

**4. mkdir** – Create a new directory

mkdir myfolder

**5. mv** – Move or rename files

mv file.txt ~/Desktop/

mv oldname.txt newname.txt

**6. cp** – Copy files or directories

cp file.txt ~/Documents/

cp -r folder1 folder2

**7. rm** – Remove files or directories

rm file.txt

rm -r foldername

**8. touch** – Create an empty file

touch newfile.txt

**9. ln** – Create symbolic or hard links

ln -s /path/to/file shortcut

**10. clear** – Clear terminal screen

clear

**11. cat** – View file contents

cat file.txt

**12. echo** – Display text

echo "Hello Linux!" > hello.txt

**13. less** – View long files

less bigfile.txt

**14. man** – Show manual

man ls

**15. uname** – System info

uname -a

**16. whoami** – Show current user

whoami

- 17. tar** – Archive files  
tar -cvf archive.tar folder/  
tar -xvf archive.tar
- 18. grep** – Search in files  
grep "error" logfile.txt
- 19. head** – First 10 lines  
head file.txt
- 20. tail** – Last 10 lines  
tail -f logfile.txt
- 21. diff** – Compare files  
diff file1.txt file2.txt
- 22. cmp** – Compare binary files  
cmp file1.bin file2.bin
- 23. comm** – Compare sorted files  
comm file1.txt file2.txt
- 24. sort** – Sort file  
sort names.txt
- 25. export** – Set env variable  
export PATH=\$PATH:/new/path
- 26. zip** – Compress  
zip archive.zip file1 file2
- 27. unzip** – Extract  
unzip archive.zip
- 28. ssh** – Remote login  
ssh user@192.168.1.10
- 29. service** – Manage services  
service apache2 restart
- 30. ps** – Show processes  
ps aux
- 31. kill / killall** – Terminate process  
kill 1234  
killall firefox
- 32. df** – Disk usage  
df -h
- 33. mount** – Mount filesystem  
mount /dev/sdb1 /mnt
- 34. chmod** – Change permissions  
chmod 755 script.sh

**35. chown** – Change owner  
chown user:user file.txt

**36. ifconfig** – Network info  
ifconfig

**37. traceroute** – Trace route  
traceroute google.com

**38. wget** – Download file  
wget https://example.com/file.zip

**39. ufw** – Firewall control  
sudo ufw enable  
sudo ufw status

**40. iptables** – Configure firewall  
sudo iptables -L

**41. apt, yum, rpm** – Package managers  
sudo apt update && sudo apt install nginx

**42. sudo** – Run as root  
sudo rm file.txt

**43. cal** – Show calendar  
cal

**44. alias** – Create shortcut  
alias ll='ls -la'

**45. dd** – Copy/convert data  
dd if=/dev/sda of=/dev/sdb

**46. whereis** – Locate binaries  
whereis python

**47. whatis** – Describe command  
whatis ls

**48. top** – Monitor processes  
top

**49. useradd** – Add user  
sudo useradd newuser

**50. passwd** – Change password  
passwd newuser