

# 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