

Docker Tutorial: Essential Commands & Use Cases

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This guide walks you through the core Docker commands to manage images, containers, and volumes effectively. Let's get started!



1. Check Docker Installation

```
curl -fsSL https://get.docker.com -o get-docker.sh
sh ./get-docker.sh
docker --version
docker version
```

Check your Docker installation and see version details.



2. Work with Docker Images

List Images

docker images

Lists all Docker images stored locally.

Pull an Image

docker pull ubuntu:22.04

Downloads the Ubuntu 22.04 image.

Inspect Image Metadata

docker image inspect ubuntu:22.04

Displays detailed info about the image.

3. Run and Manage Containers

Run a Basic Container

```
docker run ubuntu:22.04 cat /etc/passwd
```

Runs a container, executes a command, and exits.

Interactive Shell

```
docker run -it --name app1 ubuntu:22.04
```

Starts an interactive terminal session inside Ubuntu.

Detached Mode

```
docker run -itd --name app3 ubuntu:22.04
```

Runs a container in the background.

Check Containers

```
docker ps  # Running containers
docker ps -a  # All containers (running + stopped)
```

% 4. Container Interaction

Execute Commands Inside a Running Container

```
docker exec -it app3 bash
```

Opens a new terminal session inside the container.

Attach to a Container's Main Process

```
docker attach app3
```

Connects your terminal to a running container.

5. Tag & Save Docker Images

Tag an Image

```
docker tag <image_id> ubuntu:24.04
```

Assigns a new name/tag to an existing image.

Commit a Container as an Image

```
docker commit app1 app:v1
```

Creates a new image from a container.

Save and Load Images

```
docker save app:v1 -o app.tar
docker load < app.tar
```

Export and import images as tar files.

6. Port Mapping Example

Run Web Server in Container

```
docker run -d --name app1 -p 8080:80 httpd:latest
```

Starts an Apache server accessible via localhost:8080.

Resource Limits

```
docker run -d --name app1 --memory 256m --cpus 1 httpd:latest
```

Limits the container to 256MB RAM and 1 CPU.



Create and Inspect Volumes

```
docker volume create myvol
docker volume inspect myvol
```

Manages persistent data using named volumes.

Run Container with Volume

```
docker run -d --name web1 -p 8080:80 -v myvol:/usr/share/nginx/html nginx:latest
```

Mounts the volume to serve content from Nginx.

8 8. Bind Mounts

Bind a Local Directory

```
docker run -d --name app3 -p 8090:80 -v /myapp:/usr/share/nginx/html nginx:latest
```

Mounts a host directory to the container.

Alternative Syntax

```
docker run -d --name app4 -p 8091:80 --mount
type=bind,src=/myapp,dst=/usr/share/nginx/html nginx:latest
```

9. Monitor Containers

```
docker stats
docker logs web1
docker logs -f web1
docker top web1
```

Monitor performance, logs, and running processes.



10. System & Container Info (Optional but Useful)

```
lscpu  # CPU architecture
free -h  # Memory usage
docker container inspect app4
```



```
docker cp mango.txt web1:/tmp
docker cp web1:/tmp/apple.txt .
```

Transfer files between the host and a container.

✓ Summary of Core Docker Workflow

• Pull image:

```
docker pull ubuntu:22.04
```

• Run container:

```
docker run -it --name mycontainer ubuntu:22.04
```

• Inspect:

```
docker ps
docker inspect
```

• Interact:

```
docker exec -it <name> bash
```

• Persist data:

Use volumes or bind mounts

• Save & move images:

```
docker save
docker load
```

Docker Networking and Container Commands

A list of common Docker commands with short descriptions, focusing on container inspection, networking, and container lifecycle.

Container and Process Inspection

docker container inspect web6

Inspect details of the container named web6.

docker ps

List running Docker containers.

docker exec -it web5 bash

Open an interactive terminal inside the running container web5.

Networking Inspection

docker network ls

List all Docker networks.

docker network inspect bridge

Display detailed information about the default bridge network.

ip a

Show all IP addresses assigned to network interfaces (host system).

Container Cleanup

```
docker rm -f $(docker ps -aq)
```

Forcefully remove all containers (running and stopped).

Running Containers

```
docker run -d nginx:latest
```

Run a new detached container with the latest nginx image.

```
docker run -d --name app1 nginx:latest
```

Run a new detached nginx container with the name app1.

```
docker run -d --name app2 nginx:latest
```

Run a new detached nginx container with the name app2.

Interactive Container Access

```
docker exec -it app2 bash
```

Open an interactive shell in the app2 container.

```
docker exec -it web2 bash
```

Open an interactive shell in the web2 container.

```
docker exec -it web1 bash
```

Open an interactive shell in the web1 container.

Custom Docker Network

docker network create mynet

Create a custom Docker bridge network named mynet.

docker run -d --name web1 --network mynet nginx:latest

Run nginx in a detached container named web1 on the mynet network.

docker run -d --name web2 --network mynet nginx:latest

Run nginx in a detached container named web2 on the mynet network.

docker network inspect mynet

Display detailed information about the mynet network.

docker network rm mynet

Remove the custom Docker network mynet.