

25 Basic Linux Commands For Beginners [2025]

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Linux commands are used to interact with the operating system through the terminal and perform tasks like file management, navigation, and system monitoring. Learning basic Linux commands helps beginners understand how Linux works and use it efficiently for daily tasks.

- Helps beginners understand and use the Linux terminal effectively
- Covers commonly used commands for files, directories, and system tasks
- Useful for students, developers, and system administrators
- Builds a strong foundation for advanced Linux and server management



25 Basic Linux Commands				
ls	cp	touch	man	sort
pwd	mv	ln	grep	cal
mkdir	rm	cat	echo	whereis
cd	uname	clear	wget	df
rmdir	locate	ps	whoami	wc

If you're looking to set up your own Linux server to practice these commands or host projects, [Hostinger](#) can be a great option. **Hostinger** provides **affordable VPS hosting** plans with full **Linux support**, including popular distributions like **Ubuntu, CentOS, and Debian**. Its VPS hosting offers **full root access, scalable resources, and high-performance servers**, making it an excellent choice for both beginners and experienced developers looking for **reliable and cost-effective hosting solutions**.

25 essential and commonly used Linux commands to help beginners start working with Linux confidently.

1. ls

The [ls command](#) in Linux is used to list files and directories present in the current working directory.

- Displays files and folders in a directory.
- Helps users quickly understand directory contents.

Syntax:

```
ls [options] [directory]
```

Example:

```
ls
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ ls
file1.txt  file2.txt  folder1  folder2
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$
```

- The ls command lists all the directories and files available in the current working directory.

2. pwd

The [pwd command](#) in Linux is used to display the present working directory.

- Shows the full path of the current directory.
- Helps users know their current location.

Syntax:

```
pwd
```

Example:

```
pwd
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ pwd
/home/sahil/GFG
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ █
```

- The pwd command prints the absolute path of the current working directory.

3. mkdir

The [mkdir](#) command in Linux is used to create new directories.

- Creates new folders in the file system.
- Helps organize files and directories.

Syntax:

```
mkdir directory_name
```

Example:

```
mkdir GeeksforGeeks
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ mkdir GeeksforGeeks
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ ls
file1.txt  file2.txt  folder1  folder2  GeeksforGeeks
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ █
```

- The mkdir command creates a new directory named GeeksforGeeks.

4. cd

The [cd](#) command in Linux is used to change the current working directory.

- Allows navigation between directories.
- Moves the user to the home directory when used without arguments.

Syntax:

```
cd directory_name
```

Example:

```
cd GeeksforGeeks
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG$ cd GeeksforGeeks/  
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$
```

- The cd command changes the current working directory to GeeksforGeeks.

5. rmdir

The [rmdir](#) command in Linux is used to delete empty directories.

- Removes directories that do not contain files.
- Helps clean up unused folders.

Syntax:

```
rmdir directory_name
```

Example:

```
rmdir TestFolder
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls  
testFile.txt  TestFolder  
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ rmdir TestFolder  
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls  
testFile.txt
```

- The rmdir command deletes the empty directory TestFolder.

6. cp

The [cp](#) command in Linux is used to copy files or directories.

- Copies files from one location to another.
- Useful for creating backups.

Syntax:

```
cp source destination
```

Example:

```
cp file1.txt file2.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat file1.txt
Hello from file1
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat file2.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cp file1.txt file2.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat file2.txt
Hello from file1
```

- The cp command copies the contents of file1.txt into file2.txt.

7. mv

The [mv](#) command in Linux is used to move or rename files and directories.

- Renames files easily.
- Moves files between directories.

Syntax:

```
mv old_name new_name
```

Example:

```
mv old.txt new.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
old.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ mv old.txt new.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
new.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$
```

- The mv command renames the file old.txt to new.txt.

8. rm

The [rm](#) command in Linux is used to delete files permanently.

- Removes unwanted files.
- Frees disk space.

Syntax:

```
rm file_name
```

Example:

```
rm demo.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
demo.txt  new.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ rm demo.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
new.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$
```

- The rm command deletes the file demo.txt.

9. uname

The [uname](#) command in Linux is used to display system information.

- Shows operating system details.
- Helps identify the system.

Syntax:

```
uname
```

Example:

```
uname
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ uname  
Linux
```

- The uname command displays the operating system name.

10. locate

The [locate](#) command in Linux is used to find files using a database.

- Searches files quickly.
- Faster than manual searching.

Syntax:

```
locate file_name
```

Example:

```
locate demo.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ locate demo.txt  
/home/sahil/GFG/GeeksforGeeks/demo.txt
```

- The locate command shows the path of the searched file.

11. touch

The [touch](#) command in Linux is used to create empty files.

- Creates new files instantly.
- Updates file timestamps.

Syntax:

```
touch file_name
```

Example:

```
touch test.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ touch test.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
test.txt
```

- The touch command creates an empty file named test.txt.

12. ln

The [ln](#) command in Linux is used to create links between files.

- Creates shortcuts to files.
- Supports hard and soft links.

Syntax:

```
ln -s source link_name
```

Example:

```
ln -s file1.txt link1.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ln -s file1.txt link1.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls
file1.txt link1.txt test.txt
```

- The ln command creates a symbolic link.

13. cat

The [cat](#) command in Linux is used to display file contents.

- Reads file content.
- Combines multiple files.

Syntax:

```
cat file_name
```

Example:

```
cat test.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat test.txt  
Hello Geeks
```

- The cat command displays the content of the file.

14. clear

The [clear](#) command in Linux is used to clear the terminal screen.

- Removes previous outputs.
- Keeps the terminal clean.

Syntax:

```
clear
```

Example:

```
clear
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ls  
demo.txt  file1.txt  link1.txt  test.txt  
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ clear
```

- The terminal screen is cleared.

15. ps

The [ps](#) command in Linux is used to display running processes.

- Shows active processes.
- Helps monitor system activity.

Syntax:

```
ps
```

Example:

```
ps
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ ps
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
 2774 pts/0    00:00:00 bash
 6382 pts/0    00:00:00 ps
```

- The ps command displays currently running processes.

16. man

The [man](#) command in Linux is used to display command manuals.

- Provides command documentation.
- Explains options and usage.

Syntax:

```
man command_name
```

Example:

```
man ls
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ man ls
```

```
LS(1)                                User Commands                                LS(1)

NAME
    ls - list directory contents

SYNOPSIS
    ls [OPTION]... [FILE]...

DESCRIPTION
    List information about the FILES (the current directory by default). Sort en-
    tries alphabetically if none of -cftuvSUX nor --sort is specified.

    Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

    -a, --all
        do not ignore entries starting with .

    -A, --almost-all
        do not list implied . and ..

    --author
        with -l, print the author of each file

    -b, --escape
Manual page ls(1) line 1 (press h for help or q to quit)
```

- The manual page of the command is displayed.

17. grep

The [grep](#) command in Linux is used to search text patterns.

- Finds specific strings.
- Filters output.

Syntax:

```
grep "text" file_name
```

Example:

```
grep "Python" notes.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat sample.txt | grep UNIX
Linux is based on the UNIX operating system. UNIX is a powerful, multi-user, mul
titasking operating system originally developed in the 1970s at AT&T Bell Labs.
It laid the foundation for many modern operating systems
```

- The grep command displays matching lines.

18. echo

The echo command in Linux is used to display text in the terminal.

- Prints messages.
- Writes text into files.

Syntax:

```
echo "text"
```

Example:

```
echo "Hello Linux"
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ echo "Hello Linux"
Hello Linux
```

- The text is printed on the terminal.

19. wget

The [wget](#) command in Linux is used to download files from the internet.

- Downloads files via URL.
- Works in the background.

Syntax:

```
wget url
```

Example:

```
wget http://example.com/file.zip
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ wget http://example.com/file.zip
--2025-12-17 11:25:01--  http://example.com/file.zip
Resolving example.com (example.com)... 104.20.34.220, 172.66.144.113, 2606:4700:10::6814:2
2dc, ...
Connecting to example.com (example.com)|104.20.34.220|:80... connected.
```

- The file is downloaded successfully.

20. whoami

The [whoami](#) command in Linux is used to display the current user.

- Shows logged-in username.
- Useful in multi-user systems.

Syntax:

```
whoami
```

Example:

```
whoami
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ whoami  
sahil
```

- The current username is displayed.

21. sort

The [sort](#) command in Linux is used to sort file contents.

- Sorts data alphabetically.
- Supports numeric sorting.

Syntax:

```
sort file_name
```

Example:

```
sort test.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat test.txt
Hello Geeks
5
6
3
1
9
8
2
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ sort test.txt
1
2
3
5
6
8
9
Hello Geeks
```

- The file content is displayed in sorted order.

22. cal

The [cal](#) command in Linux is used to display the calendar.

- Shows month calendar.
- Useful for date reference.

Syntax:

```
cal
```

Example:

```
cal
```

Output:

```
localhost:~# cal
      December 2025
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
    1  2  3  4  5  6
 7  8  9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31
```

The current month calendar is displayed.

23. whereis

The [whereis](#) command in Linux is used to locate command files.

- Shows binary location.
- Finds command paths.

Syntax:

```
whereis command_name
```

Example:

```
whereis ls
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ whereis ls  
ls: /usr/bin/ls /usr/share/man/man1/ls.1.gz
```

- The location of the command is displayed.

24. df

The [df](#) command in Linux is used to display disk space usage.

- Shows file system usage.
- Helps monitor storage.

Syntax:

```
df [options]
```

Example:

```
df -h
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
tmpfs           392M  1.6M  391M   1% /run
/dev/sda2       16G   6.6G   8.3G  45% /
tmpfs           2.0G   0    2.0G   0% /dev/shm
tmpfs           5.0M   8.0K   5.0M   1% /run/lock
tmpfs           392M  120K   392M   1% /run/user/1000
/dev/sr0        6.0G   6.0G    0 100% /media/sahil/Ubuntu 24.04.3 LTS amd641
```

- Disk usage details are displayed.

25. wc

The [wc](#) command in Linux is used to count words, lines, and characters.

- Counts file statistics.
- Useful for text analysis.

Syntax:

```
wc option file_name
```

Example:

```
wc -w test.txt
```

Output:

```
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ wc test.txt
 8  9 26 test.txt
sahil@sahil:~/GFG/GeeksforGeeks$ cat test.txt
Hello Geeks
5
6
3
1
9
8
2
```

- The number of words in the file is displayed.

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