# Beginner-Friendly Git Command Guide

This guide explains the most common Git commands, flags, and terms in plain English. It's designed for beginners who want to understand what each part of a Git command means and how to use it correctly.

## How Git Commands Work

Every Git command follows a structure:  
  
git [command] [options/flags] [arguments]  
  
- git → the program  
- command → the action (e.g., init, add, commit)  
- flags/options → extra instructions (like -m for message)  
- arguments → what you’re acting on (like a file name or branch name)

## Common Git Commands

* git init

Creates a new Git repository in your folder.

* git status

Shows what files are changed, staged, or untracked.

* git add .

Adds all files in the folder to the staging area.

* git commit -m 'Message'

Saves a snapshot with a message describing the changes.

* git branch new-feature

Creates a new branch called 'new-feature'.

* git checkout new-feature

Switches to the branch 'new-feature'.

* git checkout -b new-feature

Creates and switches to a new branch at once.

* git merge new-feature

Merges work from 'new-feature' into the current branch.

* git remote add origin [URL]

Connects your local repo to a remote GitHub repository.

* git push -u origin main

Pushes changes to GitHub and sets it as the default (using -u).

* git pull origin main

Downloads and merges the latest changes from GitHub.

* git log

Shows the history of commits.

## Common Flags and Symbols Explained

* -m → Means 'message'. Used in commits to add a message description.
* -u → Means 'upstream'. Used when pushing to remember the remote branch for next time.
* -b → Means 'branch'. Used to create or switch branches.
* --help → Displays help information about a Git command.

## What is README.md?

README.md is a Markdown file that explains what your project does, how to install it, and how to use it. The '.md' stands for Markdown, which allows basic formatting (like headings, bold text, and lists). GitHub automatically displays this file on your repository homepage.

## What Do '>' and '>>' Mean?

These are not Git commands — they are command line (shell) symbols:  
- '>' → overwrite output into a file.  
- '>>' → append output to a file (add to the end instead of replacing).

## Quick Summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Symbol / Command | Meaning |
| -m | Add a commit message. |
| -u | Set upstream when pushing to remember the remote branch. |
| -b | Create a new branch. |
| README.md | Documentation file written in Markdown. |
| > | Overwrite output into a file. |
| >> | Append output to a file. |