An example of the output produced by 'ls -l' is shown below.

drwx------	2	richard	staff	2048	Jan 2 1997	private
drwxrws---	2	richard	staff	2048	Jan 2 1997	admin
-rw-rw----	2	richard	staff	12040	Aug 20 1996	admin/userinfo
drwxr-xr-x	3	richard	user	2048	May 13 09:27	public

Field 1: a set of ten permission flags.
Field 2: link count
Field 3: owner of the file
Field 4: associated group for the file
Field 5: size in bytes
Field 6-8: date of last modification (format varies, but always 3 fields)
Field 9: name of file (possibly with path, depending on how ls was called) The permission flags are read as follows (left to right)

position	Meaning
1	directory flag, 'd' if a directory, '-' if a normal file, something else occasionally may appear here for special devices. 'l' indicated a link
2,3,4	read, write, execute permission for User (Owner) of file
5,6,7	read, write, execute permission for Group
8,9,10	read, write, execute permission for **Other** (Other meaning NOT in user or group)
value	Meaning
-	in any position means that flag is not set
r	file is readable by owner, group or other. If set on a directory, you can list the directory contents.
w	file is writeable. On a directory, write access means you can add or delete files
x	file is executable (only for programs and shell scripts - not useful for data files). Execute permission on a directory means you can traverse the directory.
s	in the place where 'x' would normally go is called the set-UID or set-groupID flag.

On an executable program with set-UID or set-groupID, that program runs with the effective permissions of its owner or group.

For a directory, the set-groupID flag means that all files created inside that directory will inherit the group of the directory. Without this flag, a file takes on the primary group of the user creating the file. This property is important to people trying to maintain a directory as group accessible. The subdirectories also inherit the set-groupID property.

Linux Read mode permissions

- Read access on a file allows you to view file
- Read access on a directory allows you to view directory contents with ls command

Write mode permissions

- Write access on a file allows you to write to file
- Write access on a directory allows you to remove or add new files

Execute mode permissions

- Execute access on a file allows to run program or script

- Execute access on a directory allows you access file in the directory