

`rmdir` command has some limitations

- 1) we can delete only empty directory
- 2) we cannot delete files or file.

So we can overcome this problem by using `rm` command

About `rm` command

- > `rm` stands for remove
- > It is used to delete file or files
- > It is used to delete empty directory
- > It is used to delete non-empty directory

syntax of `rm` command

```
rm option file_or_directory_name
```

various options of `rm` command

i) `-i` (interactive)

while deleting files and directories, if we want confirmation then we can use `-i` option.

ii) `-f` (Forcefull Removal)

While deleting files and directories, if we don't want any error message then use `-f` option

iii) `-v` (Verbose)

If we want to know sequence of activity of removal on the screen then we can use `-v` option

iv) `-r` or `-R` (Recursive)

when we are using `rm` command to delete Directory we have to use `-r` or `-R` option

**Note:** in linux operating system, there is no way to perform undo operation. Once we delete a file or directory, it is impossible to retrieve that. So while using `rm` command we have to take special care.

### Example 1

we cannot delete a file using **rmdir** command, by mistake if you are trying to delete a file using **rmdir** command then we will get error

```
root@DESKTOP-1VT9LL4:~# rmdir File22.txt
rmdir: failed to remove 'File22.txt': Not a directory
```

### Example 2

We cannot delete non-empty directory with the help of **rmdir** command by mistake if we are trying to delete a non-empty directory using **rmdir** command then we will get error

```
root@DESKTOP-1VT9LL4:~# rmdir Honda
rmdir: failed to remove 'Honda': Directory not empty
```

### Example 3 :rm command with -i and -v option

```
root@DESKTOP-1VT9LL4:~# rm -i File22.txt
rm: remove regular file 'File22.txt'? N
root@DESKTOP-1VT9LL4:~# rm -iv File22.txt
rm: remove regular file 'File22.txt'? Y
removed 'File22.txt'
```

when we use - option then it will ask for confirmation before delete

if we press Y then file get delete and if we press N then it will not delete

### Example 4 : rm command with -rvi options

```
root@DESKTOP-1VT9LL4:~# rm -ivr Honda
rm: descend into directory 'Honda'? y
rm: remove regular empty file 'Honda/A3.txt'? y
removed 'Honda/A3.txt'
rm: remove directory 'Honda/AA'? y
removed directory 'Honda/AA'
```

## interview questions

Q. 1 What is the difference between the following commands?

case 1: `mkdir Dir1/Dir2/Dir3`

case 2: `mkdir -p dir1/Dir2/Dir3`

in first case if Dir1 and Dir2 are already present then Dir3 will get created if not already present then we will get error

for second case if dir1 and Dir2 are not present then due to -p option it will create that directory and inside Dir2, Dir3 will get created

if dir1 and Dir2 are already present then they are reused and Dir3 is created inside Dir2

Q. What is advantage of using `rm` command over `rmdir` command while removing directory?  
or

Q. What is difference between `rm` and `rmdir` command?

Ans:

-> `rmdir` command delete only empty directory but `rm` command delete both empty and non-empty directory

-> with the help of `rmdir` command we cannot delete a file but with the help `rm` command we can delete a file also

-> `rm` is more powerful than `rmdir` command