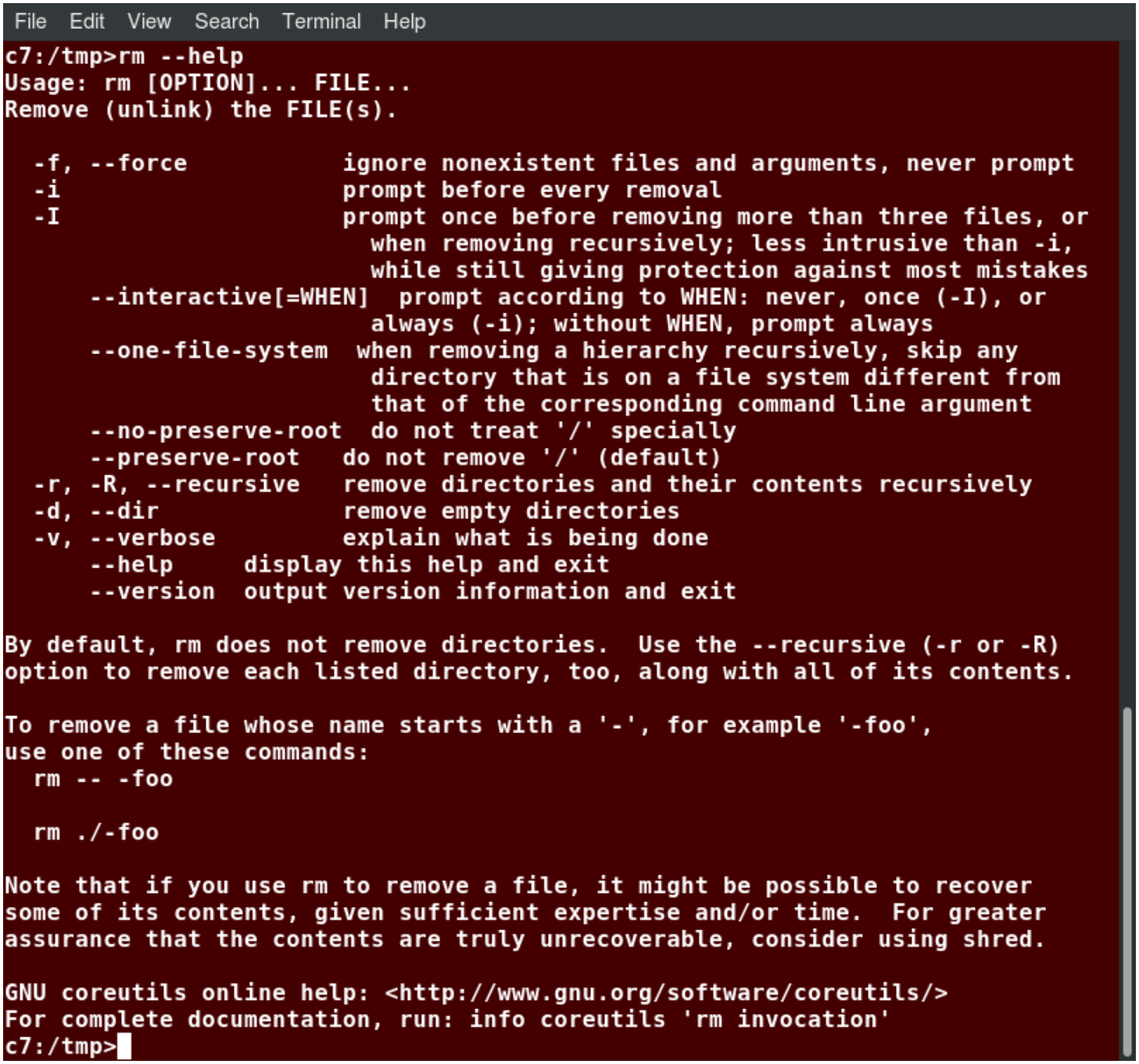
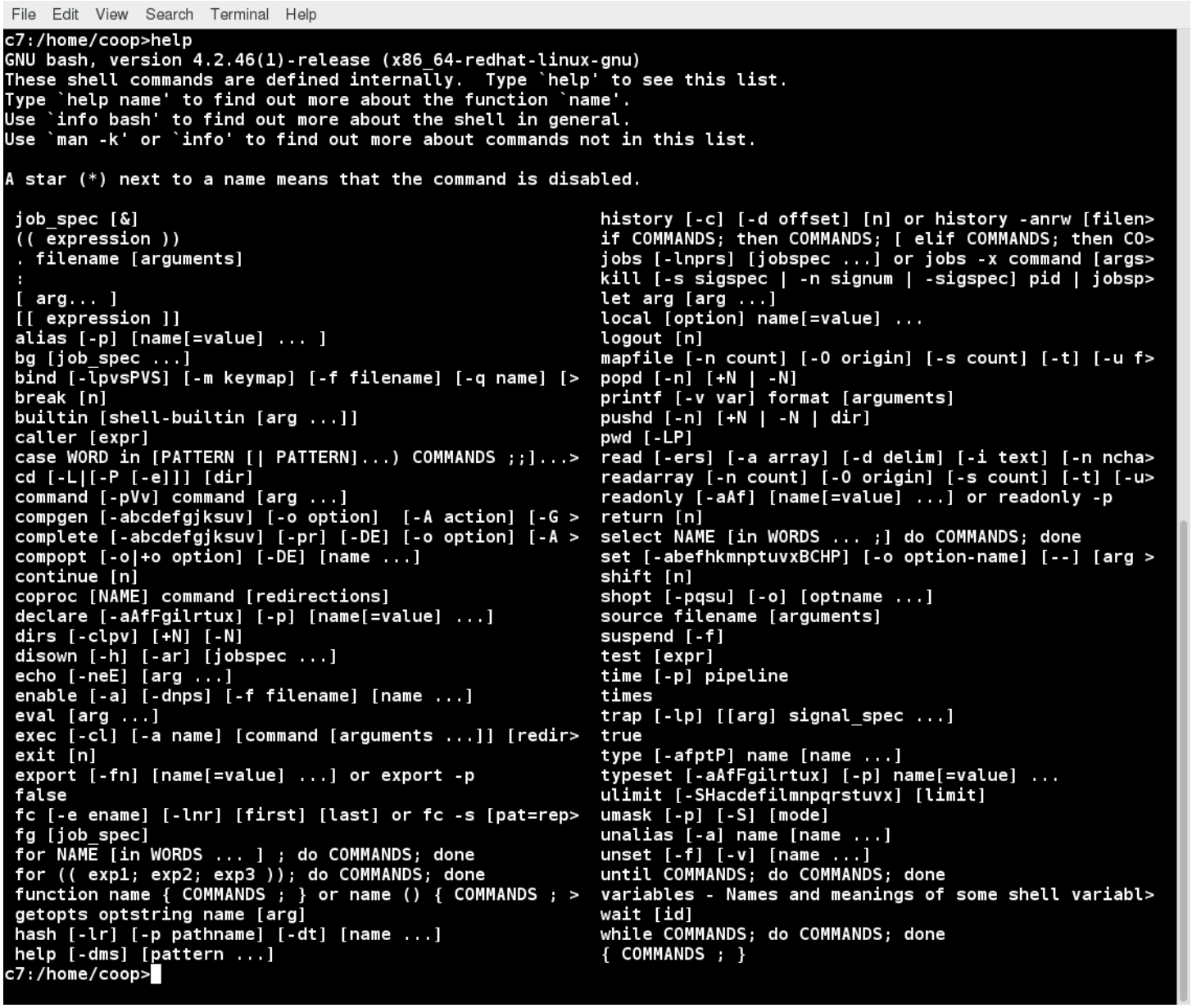
--help and help

Many of the commands on your system will generate a brief discussion of usage and options if you run them with the **--help** option. For example, trying this with **rm** by doing **rm --help** gives the output seen in the screenshot below.



This is often all you need and can be consumed much quicker than running man or info.

There is also a **help** command, which is actually part of the bash shell, and only gives information about commands which are actually part of the shell itself. Typing **help** by itself generates the screenshot shown below,



and information on a particular command can be done as in:

```
$ help pwd

pwd: pwd [-LP]
    Print the current working directory.  With the -P option, pwd prints
    the physical directory, without any symbolic links; the -L option
    makes pwd follow symbolic links.
```

It is important to note that there are programs which have two incarnations, one in the bash shell and one as a standalone program. For example, these two commands are similar but not identical:

```
$ echo hello
$ /bin/echo hello
```

By default, the command built into the shell is invoked, rather than the one in the path. Likewise, the results of **man echo** and **help echo** are not the same. This can be confusing.