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## Command: Copy File (cp)

### Arguments

So far, the commands we've learned can function with few additional terms or arguments. You can simply input `cd ~` and, like magic, you'll be back at your root directory.

However, the next few commands we'll learn require additional **arguments**. In other words, they require you to type both the command and the action you wish it to take. For example, when we used the `mkdir` command, we also had to include the name of the folder we wanted the CLI to make.

### Copy/Paste

So, let's say we want to copy a file on our desktop. Using our mouse and a GUI, we might click a menu or use a keyboard shortcut like `ctrl-c`, after which we would manually navigate to the new location, then click or use `ctrl-v` to paste the file. But that's tedious!

With the CLI, we can streamline this process by simply using the `cp` command. You can think of this command as combining the actions of "copy" and "paste."

To use this command and copy/paste a file in the CLI, you would type: `cp [original filename] [location for duplicate file]`.

Note that this command requires two additional arguments; after we type `cp`, we then have to tell the CLI what file we want to copy and where we want to place our new duplicate. Here you can use either absolute or relative path references.

Let's give this a shot. If we want to copy the `blank.txt` file on our desktops and place it into our `general_assembly` folder, what would we do?

```
cp ~/desktop/blank.txt ~/desktop/general_assembly
```

Note that the file now exists in both places.

**Pro tip:** In the CLI, we separate arguments with a single space, just like typing a sentence.

Try this on your own computer.

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