Docker Commands Cheat Sheet (with Explanations)

Basic Container Commands

docker run IMAGE NAME

Run a container from an image (pulls image if not available).

docker run -d IMAGE_NAME

Run a container in the background (detached mode).

docker run -p 8080:80 IMAGE_NAME

Run container and map host port 8080 to container port 80.

docker run --name my_container IMAGE_NAME

Run with a custom container name.

docker start my_container

Start an existing (stopped) container.

docker stop my_container

Stop a running container.

docker restart my_container

Restart a container.

Container Management

docker ps

List running containers.

docker ps -a

List all containers, including stopped ones.

docker logs my_container

View logs from a container.

docker exec -it my_container bash

Access a running container's shell interactively.

docker rm my_container

Remove a container.

Image Management

docker images

List all Docker images available locally.

docker pull IMAGE_NAME

Download an image from Docker Hub (or registry).

docker build -t my_image .

Build an image from a Dockerfile in the current directory.

docker rmi IMAGE_NAME

Remove an image from local system.

System Cleanup

docker container prune Remove all stopped containers.

docker image prune Remove unused images.

docker system prune

Remove unused containers, images, networks, and volumes.

Docker Compose (multi-container apps)

docker-compose up Start services defined in docker-compose.yml.

docker-compose up -d Start services in the background.

docker-compose down

Stop and remove containers, networks, and volumes created by Compose.