

# Pre-Recitation Questions

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- What does the UNIX shell do?
  - The UNIX shell is an interface that allows users to selectively execute commands, that correspond with the possible actions of the computers, and receive feedback from those commands when available.
- How does it work?
  - The UNIX shell works by continually looping and waiting for keyboard input from the user. When it is input a newline character, the shell tries to fork a new process based on the input command and arguments. The shell then waits on the forked child process to finish executing, and prints the output to the user (or saves it to a file).
- Why is it useful?
  - The unix shell is useful because it gives users full control over all the actions available to them. Anything that you can do on your computer, you can pretty much do on your command line. The interface's different ways of filtering output is also useful for chaining together commands to produce output beyond the scope of just one command's single power.