Quick Reference for UNIX Commands

Command	Description	Examples and Options
`<tab>`	attempt to autocomplete	using this can speed up typing commands
`ls`	list contents of a directory (aka "folder") list additional info. about contents	`ls` `ls -ltrh`
`cd`	change directory to home (~) change directory to /new/dir	`cd` `cd /new/dir`
`pwd`	*print working directory*	`pwd`
`*`	wild card, any number of characters	`ls *.txt`
`?`	wild card, 0 or 1 character	`ls job?.out`
`.`	current directory	`ls .`
`..`	directory one level up	`cd ..`
`~`	home directory	`ls ~`
`-`	previous directory	`cd -`
`touch`	make an empty file or update its timestamp	`touch file.txt`
`mkdir`	create a directory, in this case named *dir*	`mkdir dir`
`rm`	delete a file *permanently* delete a directory *permanently*	`rm file.txt` `rm -r dir`

`mv`	move a file (one directory up in this case)
	 move a directory (to home, in this case)
	 rename a file
		`mv file.txt ..`
		 `mv dir ~`
		 `mv file.txt new_name.txt`

`cp`	copy a file copy a directory	`cp file.txt copy_of_file.txt` `cp -r dir copy_of_dir`
`find`	search for files	`find *.txt`
`cat`	display file contents	`cat file.txt`
`less`	read file interactively	`less file.txt`
`head`	print first few lines of a file	`head file.txt`
`tail`	print last few lines of a file	`tail file.txt`
`grep`	search for words in a file	`grep pineapple file.txt`
`wc`	word count	`wc file.txt`
`sort`	sort input alphanumerically	`sort file.txt`
`|`	Pipe/direct output to another command	`cat foo.txt | sort`
`>`	Redirect standard output to a file. If the file *already* exists, **overwrite** the file.	`cat file.txt > file2.txt`
`>>`	Redirect standard output and append it to the end of a file.	`cat blah.txt >> file.txt`
`&`	run a command or process in background	`./my_script.sh &`
`ps`	show processes on the computer show a given user's processes	`ps` `ps -u netID`
`df`	show disk usage (in this case for home)	`df -h ~`
`du`	show file or directory size	`du -sh ~`
`diff`	show differences between two files	`diff file1.txt file2.txt`
`which`	show app version be used by default	`which python`
`whereis`	show possible locations of an app	`whereis gcc`
`man`	display the manual for commands	`man grep`
`whoami`	display who you are logged in as	`whoami`
`clear`	clear terminal's contents	`clear`
`history`	show command history	`history`
`source`	execute the contents of a file	`source ~/.bashrc`
`<Ctrl>-c`	cancel current command	useful when a command "hangs"
`<Ctrl>-r`	search recent commands by typing	`<Ctrl>-r start_of_command`
`exit`	log out of current session	`exit`