Basics

Let's start with simple

man command. Well, it gives us a hint. Let's use it.

Please, execute the

man man command.

Now we can spend at least 10 minutes reading what man command is, all the arguments, options, possibilities.

Try to navigate through the document with arrows. When finished, press

q to quit.

Ok, now let's use the knowledge and learn more about ls.

man ls

exploring man

Now, we know how to access man, but it is only the first page.

We have a possibility to navigate through pages (or sections). But what sections do we have available?

1 Executable programs or shell commands

2 System calls (functions provided by the kernel)

3 Library calls (functions within program libraries)

4 Special files (usually found in /dev)

5 File formats and conventions eg /etc/passwd

6 Games

7 Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions), e.g.

man(7), groff(7)

8 System administration commands (usually only for root)

9 Kernel routines [Non standard]

Ok, let's try to get system administration commands for ls command.

man 8 ls

Well, there is no page 8 for ls. How to check, what sections/pages we have available?

man -f ls

Ok, now we see, ls has 1 page only.

Ok, let's use another command. This time it will be intro. This command in the introduction to Linux commands.

man -f intro shows us multiple sections available.

Let's play with them, and please remember, if you wish to quit, press q .

man intro  
man 1 intro  
man 8 intro

# Another helping arguments

We have an option to quicly check what command do.

whatis ls shows short description of the functionality.

The same is available with man:

man -f ls

man -k ls searches for the given command through all man pages, and returns all of them as output.

man -w ls returns the location of the file from where the page is rendered.