

HDFS dfs Command Table (Most Important for Exams)

Command	Purpose	Example
-ls	List files/directories	hdfs dfs -ls /user/hduser
-ls -R	Recursive listing	hdfs dfs -ls -R /data
-mkdir	Create directory	hdfs dfs -mkdir /data/input
-mkdir -p	Create parent dirs if needed	hdfs dfs -mkdir -p /data/2025/jan
-rmdir	Remove empty directory	hdfs dfs -rmdir /data/tmp
-rm	Remove file	hdfs dfs -rm /data/file.txt
-rm -r	Remove directory recursively	hdfs dfs -rm -r /data/old
-rm -skipTrash	Delete permanently	hdfs dfs -rm -skipTrash /data/file.txt
-mv	Move/Rename within HDFS	hdfs dfs -mv /data/a.txt /archive/a.txt
-cp	Copy inside HDFS	hdfs dfs -cp /data/a.txt /backup/
-put	Copy from local → HDFS	hdfs dfs -put local.txt /data/
-copyFromLocal	Same as put	hdfs dfs -copyFromLocal test.csv /data/
-get	Copy from HDFS → local	hdfs dfs -get /data/out.txt /home/user/
-copyToLocal	Same as get	hdfs dfs -copyToLocal /data/log /home/
-getmerge	Merge HDFS files to one local file	hdfs dfs -getmerge /data/out/ result.txt
-appendToFile	Append local file to HDFS file	hdfs dfs -appendToFile a.txt b.txt /data/big.txt
-cat	Display file contents	hdfs dfs -cat /data/file.txt
-tail	Show last 1 KB of file	hdfs dfs -tail /logs/app.log
-text	Convert to text (SequenceFile, etc.)	hdfs dfs -text /data/seqfile
-du	Show space usage	hdfs dfs -du /data
-du -h	Human readable	hdfs dfs -du -h /data
-dus	Disk usage summary	hdfs dfs -dus /data/input
-count	Count dirs, files, bytes	hdfs dfs -count /data
-stat	File metadata (size, mod time)	hdfs dfs -stat %n %b %y /data/file.txt
-chmod	Change permissions	hdfs dfs -chmod 755 /data/file.txt
-chown	Change owner	hdfs dfs -chown hduser /data/file.txt
-chgrp	Change group	hdfs dfs -chgrp hadoop /data/
-setrep	Change replication factor	hdfs dfs -setrep 3 /data/file.txt
-checksum	Show file checksum	hdfs dfs -checksum /data/file.txt
-test	Test for existence/files/dir	hdfs dfs -test -e /data/file.txt
-help	Show help	hdfs dfs -help