

Filenames and special characters

- In Linux, You can name your file whatever you want.
- However, There are two characters that are not allowed (Forbidden) and can not be inserted in a filename. Those are / and NUL character.
- Don't worry about the NUL character for now.
- Every other character you can imagine can be a part of your filename.

Inserting a space

- If you want to make a directory named my work

You can't just execute

```
mkdir my work
```

This will create two separate directories

However, There are three methods that you can use to include a space in your filename.

Inserting a space

Method #1

Surround your filename with single quotes

```
mkdir 'my work'
```

Method #2

Surround your filename with double quotes

```
mkdir "my work"
```

You can even just surround the space itself

```
mkdir my" "work
```

```
mkdir my' 'work
```

Inserting a space

Method #3

Use the escape character \

Insert \ before every occurrence of a space

```
mkdir my\ work
```

- Example 2

IF you want to make a directory named I Love Linux

```
mkdir I\ Love\ Linux
```

And so on.

- If you want to include a **double space**

IF you want to make a directory named my work

```
mkdir my\ \ work
```

- As you can see, you must include \ before every occurrence of a space

How to Refer to filename with a space ?

- Let's say you have a directory named `my work` on your current working directory.
- If you want to change to `my work`

```
cd my work
```

will not work.

You can choose any of the below options

```
cd "my work"
```

```
cd 'my work'
```

```
cd my\ work
```