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Just like any other shell, MongoDB’s shell comes packed with many different commands for all different kinds of uses. Whether it be a simple help command that shows some options available to the user, or a complex command that accesses a database, sorts it, and prints out everything starting with the letter ‘a’, there are tons of commands at the disposal of any Mongo  
DB user.

First, are the mongo command options before a database is started. These commands are mostly just for editing the shell’s process, such as specifying a port, checking the version, and setting a username or password. Although these commands are only something you may put in once or twice during a ‘session’ of coding, they are still extremely helpful to learn.

The next commands to be talked about are the helper commands. All these commands have one goal: to help the user by displaying varying information. The simple ‘help’ command displays all different manners of help that the user can get, like ‘db.help()’ if the user needs help with database methods. Commands like ‘show collections’ and ‘show users’ print out data for the user, so they may see what data they are working with. While veteran users may not use the former commands as much, the latter ones that display information are used by everyone, ranging from the newest newbies to the oldest veterans.

Since MongoDB is based in JavaScript, that means it also comes packed with JavaScript API shell commands. These commands are most useful for the CRUD operations. They allow the user to create new collections in databases as well as find and read documents within them. There are many commands for inserting and deleting new documents inside a collection, such as insert/delete/update one/many, and drop for removing an entire collection at once.

The MongoDB shell also provides many keyboard shortcuts just like other shells do. Most of these shortcuts are used for doing things like grabbing previously used commands, iterating through the current command prompt, or aborting process. These commands simply seek to make things faster and more convenient for the user.

Commands for Queries are yet another large part of MongoDB commands. Query commands come in many different shapes and sizes, but all do one thing: query a database/collection and return matching documents. Querying a database is where complexity of commands really begins to have a sort of ‘range’. You could simply find the first item in a list with a simple command, or a complex command to find all items with a combination of specific datapoints, like names, dates, color, type, and so on. Once a database is created and has lots of data, querying it allows the user to access that data and use it as they wish.

The last category of MongoDB commands are the administrative helper commands. Administrative helpers allow users to edit databases by doing things like renaming collections and dropping databases, as well as creating new users and setting passwords. As inferred from the name of the category, these commands are used by administrators to edit the settings of their databases as they wish.

Overall, there exists many different categories in which MongoDB shell commands can fit into. Taking a further look into these categories shows many, many different commands for all sorts of purposes. Whether it be creating a new collection in a database, setting passwords, or making queries on a database, MongoDB provides many options to its users.