

LINUX TERMINAL ESSENTIALS

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Part 1 cheat sheet — navigation, files, permissions

GET AROUND

<code>pwd</code>	where am I?
<code>ls -la</code>	list all, with details
<code>cd /var/log</code>	go (absolute path)
<code>cd Documents</code>	go (relative path)
<code>cd ~</code> <code>cd ..</code> <code>cd -</code>	home · up one · back

PERMISSIONS — THE 4-2-1 TRICK

<code>r=4</code> <code>w=2</code> <code>x=1</code>	add per audience: owner/group/others
<code>chmod 755 script</code>	<code>rw</code> <code>r-x</code> <code>r-x</code> — scripts, dirs
<code>chmod 644 file</code>	<code>rw-</code> <code>r--</code> <code>r--</code> — normal files
<code>chmod 600 key</code>	<code>rw-</code> <code>---</code> <code>---</code> — secrets
<code>chmod u+x script</code>	symbolic: add exec for owner
<code>sudo chown u:g file</code>	change owner:group

FILES & DIRECTORIES

<code>touch file.txt</code>	create empty file
<code>mkdir -p a/b/c</code>	create nested dirs
<code>cp -r src/ dest/</code>	copy (dirs need -r)
<code>mv old new</code>	move / rename
<code>rm -i file</code>	delete (with confirm)
<code>find ~ -name "*.txt"</code>	search by name/size/age

CONTROL KEYS

<code>Ctrl+C</code>	stop running command
<code>Tab</code>	autocomplete (2x = list all)
<code>Ctrl+R</code>	search history
<code>Ctrl+L</code>	clear screen
<code>!!</code> <code>!42</code>	rerun last · rerun #42

READ FILES

<code>cat file</code>	print whole file
<code>less file</code>	page through (q quits)
<code>head -n 5 file</code>	first 5 lines
<code>tail -f logfile</code>	live-follow a log ★

SUDO

<code>sudo command</code>	run once as root
<code>\$</code> vs <code>#</code>	user prompt vs ROOT prompt
<code>least privilege</code>	elevate only when needed

HELP

<code>man ls</code>	full manual (q quits)
<code>ls --help</code>	quick summary
<code>whatis ls</code>	one-line description

■ DANGER ZONE

`rm -rf dir/`
Recursive + forced + no recycle bin = gone forever.
Never with unverified wildcards. Use `rm -i` while learning.

15-MINUTE PRACTICE DRILL (do this daily for two weeks)

- `mkdir -p practice/logs && cd practice`
- `touch notes.txt secret.txt && ls -la`
- `echo "day 1" >> notes.txt && cat notes.txt`
- `chmod 600 secret.txt && ls -l` (read the ten characters)
- `cd / && ls`, then find your way home with `cd ~`
- `man find` — read one new option per day

Muscle memory comes from fingers, not eyes. Type every command — never copy-paste while learning.

Interview signal: fluency here says “I work with systems, not just screens.” Practice 15 min/day for two weeks.

Free full course + Part 2 (pipes, scripting, SSH) → cloudcomputingtutor.com