

UNIX: Ten Commands

These commands will help get you started in a UNIX or UNIX-like environment. They are universal so it does not matter if you are operating in Linux or Solaris or whatever.

| <i>Command</i> | <i>Example</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| ls | ls | Lists files in current directory. |
| | ls -a | Lists all files (i.e., hidden files, too). |
| | ls -l | Lists files in long format. |
| | ls -al | Lists all files in long format. |
| | ls -hl | Lists files in long format, sizes in KB/MB/etc. |
| cd <directory> | cd compsci | Change directory. |
| | cd .. | Move up one directory. |
| | cd ~ | Move to your home directory. |
| mkdir <directory> | mkdir monty | Make a directory. |
| rmdir <directory> | rmdir emptydir | Remove an empty directory. |
| rm -rf <directory> | rm -rf anydir | Remove any directory and all nested content without prompts. (Be very careful with this!) |
| rm <filename> | rm hello.bak | Remove (delete) a specific file. |
| | rm *.bak | Remove multiple files. |
| cp <src> <dest> | cp hello.py monty | Copy a file into a directory. |
| | cp hello.py hello.bak | Make a backup of a file. |
| mv <src> <dest> | mv hello.py world.py | Move (rename) a file. |
| cat <filename> | cat world.py | Examine the contents of a file, also used with file redirection (> or >>) operators. |
| lpr -P 115 <file> | lpr -P 115 world.py | Send a file to the printer named 115. |

But if you're in a rush and don't have time for ten and instead only learn one command:

| <i>Command</i> | <i>Example</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| man <command> | man ls | Get help about a command (e.g., ls) from the online manual . |