

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 ls -a ls -l ls -al ls -hl	Lists files in current directory. Lists all files (i.e., hidden files, too). Lists files in long format. Lists all files in long format. Lists files in long format, sizes in KB/MB/etc.
cd <directory>	cd compsci cd .. cd ~	Change directory. Move up one directory. Move to your home directory.
mkdir <directory>	mkdir beowulf	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 rm *.bak	Remove (delete) a specific file. Remove multiple files.
cp <src> <dest>	cp hello.c beowulf cp hello.c hello.bak	Copy a file into a directory. Make a backup of a file.
mv <src> <dest>	mv hello.c world.c	Move (rename) a file.
cat <filename>	cat world.c	Examine the contents of a file, also used with file redirection (> or >>) operators.
lpr -P 115 <file>	lpr -P 115 world.c	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 .