

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	Lists files in current directory. Lists all files (i.e., hidden files, too). Lists files in long format. Lists all files in long format.
cd <directory>	cd compsci cd .. cd ~	Change directory. Move up one directory. Move to your home directory.
mkdir <directory>	mkdir monty	Make a directory.
rmdir <directory>	rmdir emptydir	Remove an empty directory.
rm -r <directory>	rm -r anydir	Remove any directory and all its contents. (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.py monty cp hello.py hello.bak	Copy a file into a directory. Make a backup of a file.
mv <src> <dest>	mv hello.py world.py	Move (rename) a file.
more <filename>	more world.py	Examine the contents of a file one page at a time (also try less).
lpr <filename>	lpr world.py	Send a file to the printer.

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 .