

Top 25 Kali Linux Terminal Commands (2025)

Below is a list of the Top 25 Most Useful Kali Linux Terminal Commands for beginners in 2025.

Each command includes its purpose and a usage example.

1. pwd

Description: Shows your current directory.

Example: pwd

2. ls

Description: Lists files and folders.

Example: ls

3. cd

Description: Changes into a folder.

Example: cd Downloads

4. cd ..

Description: Goes back to previous folder.

Example: cd ..

5. clear

Description: Clears the terminal screen.

Example: clear

6. mkdir

Description: Creates a new folder.

Example: mkdir testfolder

7. rm

Description: Deletes a file.

Example: rm myfile.txt

8. rm -rf

Description: Deletes a folder and all its contents.

Example: `rm -rf testfolder`

9. touch

Description: Creates a new blank file.

Example: `touch notes.txt`

10. cat

Description: Displays content of a file.

Example: `cat notes.txt`

11. sudo apt update

Description: Updates the package list.

Example: `sudo apt update`

12. sudo apt upgrade -y

Description: Upgrades installed packages.

Example: `sudo apt upgrade -y`

13. whoami

Description: Displays current user.

Example: `whoami`

14. ifconfig

Description: Displays network information.

Example: `ifconfig`

15. ping

Description: Checks connection to a website.

Example: `ping google.com`

16. uname -a

Description: Displays system information.

Example: `uname -a`

17. locate

Description: Quickly finds files by name.

Example: `locate passwd`

18. find

Description: Searches for files by name.

Example: `find / -name filename.txt`

19. history

Description: Shows past commands.

Example: `history`

20. man

Description: Opens manual for a command.

Example: `man ls`

21. echo

Description: Displays a message.

Example: `echo Hello, World!`

22. cp

Description: Copies a file.

Example: `cp file1.txt file2.txt`

23. mv

Description: Moves or renames a file.

Example: `mv oldname.txt newname.txt`

24. nano

Description: Opens a file editor.

Example: nano myfile.txt

25. exit

Description: Closes the terminal.

Example: exit