

# Top 50 Linux Commands for Beginners (2025 Guide)

## Basic Commands

Command	Description	Example
pwd	Show current directory	pwd
ls	List files and folders	ls -l
cd	Change directory	cd /home
cd ..	Go back one directory	cd ..
clear	Clear the terminal screen	clear
exit	Close the terminal	exit

## File Management

Command	Description	Example
mkdir	Make a new folder	mkdir test
touch	Create empty file	touch file.txt
rm	Remove a file	rm file.txt
rm -r	Remove a folder	rm -r myfolder
mv	Move or rename file	mv old.txt new.txt
cp	Copy a file	cp file1.txt file2.txt
cp -r	Copy a folder	cp -r dir1 dir2
cat	Show file content	cat notes.txt
nano	Edit file in terminal	nano file.txt

## System Information

Command	Description	Example
uname -a	System info	uname -a
hostname	Show computer name	hostname

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whoami	Show logged-in user	whoami
date	Show date & time	date
cal	Show calendar	cal
df -h	Disk space usage	df -h
free -h	Show RAM usage	free -h
uptime	System running time	uptime

## Network Commands

Command	Description	Example
ifconfig	Show network info	ifconfig
ip a	Show IP address	ip a
ping	Check website connection	ping google.com
netstat -tuln	Show open ports	netstat -tuln
traceroute	Trace route to site	traceroute google.com
nslookup	DNS lookup	nslookup google.com
curl	Fetch website content	curl example.com

## Process Management

Command	Description	Example
ps	Show running processes	ps
top	Show active processes	top
htop	Interactive process view	htop
kill	Kill a process by PID	kill 1234
killall	Kill by process name	killall firefox
jobs	Show background jobs	jobs

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fg	Bring job to front	fg
bg	Send job to background	bg

## User Management

Command	Description	Example
adduser	Add new user	adduser test
passwd	Change password	passwd
deluser	Delete a user	deluser test
groups	Show groups	groups
id	Show user ID info	id username
who	Show logged in users	who
last	Show login history	last

## Cool Commands

Command	Description	Example
history	Show previous commands	history
!!	Repeat last command	!!
!!ls	Run last command starting with ls	!!ls
alias	Create shortcut for command	alias ll='ls -l'
unalias	Remove alias	unalias ll
neofetch	Show system info in style	neofetch
figlet	Print big ASCII text	figlet Hello
cowsay	Cow says your message	cowsay Hello
lolcat	Rainbow-colored output	echo Hello   lolcat