Commonly-Used Unix Commands

DIRECTORIES

du	show space used
ls	list contents of directory
mkdir	make directories
rmdir	remove empty directories

FILES

cat	concatenate files, send to std output
head	output the first part of files
less	like more, but allows backward movement
more	print file to screen by pages
rm	remove files, directories, or links
tac	reverse of cat (last lines go first)
tail	output the last part of files
touch	change date on a file
wc	give file size (bytes, words, and lines)

HELP

env	provide information about environment
file	find file type
history	display last commands entered
kill	terminate a process
locate	find file with specified name
man	print command manual page to screen
ps	list running processes
pwd	return working directory name
top	display information about what is running
which	locate a command that you could execute
who	display who is logged in
whoami	return effective user id

LINES

awk	process lines
comm	give differences between three sorted files
diff	give difference between two files
fgrep	extract lines that exactly match
grep	extract lines with more general match
paste	stick files together line-by-line
sed	stream editor

SORT / TR / UNIQ

sort	sort lines in various ways
tr	change selected characters
uniq	remove adjacent duplicate lines

MISC

cal	display a calendar
clear	clear screen
date	prints time and date
df	show space available
echo	repeat command line to standard out
open	command-line double-click
script	record your typing in a file
sudo	temporarily act as super-user

MOVE

cd	change directories
cp	copy files and directories
ln	create links between files or directories
mv	move or rename files and directories
popd	change back to earlier directory
pushd	change directories but remember

PRINT

cancel	cancel printer jobs
lp	send files to printer
lpstat	check status of print jobs

REMOTE

scp	remote file copy
ssh	login on a remote machine

SECURITY

chgrp	change group
chmod	change security (permissions) of file
chown	change owner
chsh	change your settings. password, etc

STORE

gunzip	uncompress file
gzip	compress file
tar	create or extract archives of files

Commonly-Used Command-line Arguments

chmod a+r	make readable by all
chmod g+w	make writeable by group
chmod o-x	make unexecutable by other
chmod u+x	make executable by yourself
comm -1	omit lines in file 1 only
comm -12	omit lines not in common
comm -3	omit lines in common
cp -p	preserve data and permissions
df -k	show space in Kb
du -k	show space in Kb
fgrep -f	get strings from a file
fgrep -v	omit lines containing string
grep -f	get strings from a file
grep -v	omit lines containing string
head -n	output first n lines
history -n	show the last n lines entered
kill -9	terminate unconditionally
ln -s	create symbolic link
lp -dpp	send to printer with name pp

ls -a	list all files, including . files
ls -l	long listing
ls -r	reverse order of list
ls -t	chronologically order list
ps -a	list all processes
rm -f	forcible removal
rm -r	recursive removal
script -aff	record to file named ff
sed -f	edits commands in a file
sort -n	sort in numerical order
sort -r	reverse order of sort
tail -n	output the last n lines
tar -c	create tarfile
tar -f	next argument is filename
tar -t	list tarfile
tar -x	extract from tarfile
touch -r	change date of second file to first's
uniq -c	count occurrences in a sorted list