

Navigation & Files

<code>pwd</code>	Print working directory
<code>ls -la</code>	List all files incl. hidden, with details
<code>cd -</code>	Jump back to previous directory
<code>cp -r src dst</code>	Copy recursively
<code>mv old new</code>	Move / rename
<code>rm -rf dir</code>	Delete recursively, no prompt (⚠️ careful)
<code>mkdir -p a/b/c</code>	Create nested directories
<code>touch file</code>	Create empty file / update timestamp
<code>find / -name " *.l og"</code>	Search by name
<code>grep -r " err or" /var/log</code>	Search inside files, recursive
<code>cat / less / head / tail</code>	View files (<code>tail -f</code> follows live)

The 40+ commands CompTIA Linux+, Security+, and every sysadmin interview expect.

Permissions

<code>ls -l</code>	Show permissions (<code>-rwxr-xr--</code>)
<code>chmod 755 file</code>	<code>rwx / r-x / r-x</code> — standard for scripts
<code>chmod 644 file</code>	<code>rw- / r-- / r--</code> — standard for files
<code>chown user:group file</code>	Change owner
<code>sudo !!</code>	Re-run last command as root

Numeric recap: 4 = read, 2 = write, 1 = execute → 7 = `rwx`, 6 = `rw-`, 5 = `r-x`, 4 = `r--`

Networking

<code>ip a</code>	Show interfaces + IPs (modern <code>ifconfig</code>)
<code>ip r</code>	Show routing table
<code>ping -c 4 host</code>	Test connectivity
<code>ss -tulpn</code>	Listening ports + processes (modern <code>netstat</code>)
<code>curl -I host</code>	Fetch headers
<code>dig +short exampl e.com</code>	DNS lookup
<code>traceroute host</code>	Path packets take
<code>ssh user@host</code>	Secure remote shell
<code>scp file user@h ost :/path</code>	Secure copy

Modern replacements: `ip` for `ifconfig`, `ss` for `netstat`.



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System & Processes

<code>ps aux grep nginx</code>	Find processes
<code>top / htop</code>	Live process monitor
<code>kill -9 PID</code>	Force-kill a process
<code>systemctl status nginx</code>	Service status
<code>systemctl restart nginx</code>	Restart a service
<code>journalctl -u nginx -f</code>	Follow service logs
<code>df -h</code>	Disk space (human-readable)
<code>du -sh *</code>	Directory sizes
<code>free -h</code>	Memory usage
<code>uptime</code>	Load + uptime
<code>uname -a</code>	Kernel / system info

-h means human-readable — use it for df, du, free.

Text Power Tools

<code>grep -i "fail" log</code>	Case-insensitive search
<code>sort file uniq -c</code>	Count unique lines
<code>awk '{print \$1}' file</code>	Print column 1
<code>sed 's/old/new/g' file</code>	Find and replace
<code>wc -l file</code>	Count lines
<code>history grep ssh</code>	Search command history

Chain them with pipes — that's where the power is.



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