

The Pattern

Every cmdlet is **Verb-Noun** Get-Process, Stop-Service, New-Item

Learn the verbs — they work across every noun.

Must-Know Aliases

ls / dir	Get-ChildItem
cat	Get-Content
echo	Write-Output
ps	Get-Process
kill	Stop-Process
cp	Copy-Item
mv	Move-Item
rm	Remove-Item
man	Get-Help
?	Where-Object
%	ForEach-Object

Aliases are shortcuts — use full cmdlet names in scripts.

Files & System

Get-ChildItem -Recurse -Filter *.log	find files
Get-Content log.txt -Tail 20 -Wait	live tail
Copy-Item src dst -Recurse	copy folders
Get-Help Get-Process -Examples	built-in examples
Get-Command service	discover cmdlets

Get-Help and Get-Command are your built-in documentation.

Processes & Services

Get-Process Sort-Object CPU -Descending Select -Object -First 5	top 5 CPU hogs
Stop-Process -Name notepad -Force	kill a process
Get-Service Where-Object {\$_.Status -eq 'Running'}	running services
Restart-Service -Name Spooler	restart a service

The pipe | passes objects, not text.



Networking

Test-Connection 8.8.8.8 -Count 4	ping
Test-NetConnection example.com -Port 443	port check
Get-NetIP Address	IP config
Get-DnsClientCache Clear-DnsClientCache	flush DNS
Resolve-DnsName example.com	nslookup equivalent
Test-NetConnection covers ping, port checks, and traceroute in one cmdlet.	

Active Directory

Get-ADUser -Filter * -SearchBase "OU=Sales, DC=corp, DC=local"	all users in an OU
Get-ADUser jdoe Unlock-ADAccount	unlock an account
Set-ADAccountPassword jdoe -Reset	force a password reset
Get-ADComputer -Filter * Select -Object Name, OperatingSystem	inventory computers

Requires the ActiveDirectory module (RSAT).

Pipeline Power

Get-Process | Sort-Object CPU -Descending | Select -Object -First 5 Name

Get-Childitem C:\ -Recurse -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue | Where-Object {\$_.Length -gt 100MB} | Sort-Object

Chain small cmdlets — the pipeline does the heavy lifting.

Quick Hits

Set-ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned -Scope CurrentUser	unblock scripts
Cmdlets output objects , not text	pipe freely
\$_	current object in the pipeline

When in doubt, pipe to Get-Member to see what's inside.



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 Page 2 of 2.

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