

# LINUX COMMANDS CHEATSHEET 2026

Essential commands for developers, sysadmins & ethical hackers | [sudoflare.com](https://sudoflare.com)

## NAVIGATION

<code>pwd</code>	Print current directory
<code>ls -la</code>	List all files with details
<code>ls -lh</code>	Human-readable sizes
<code>cd /path</code>	Change directory
<code>cd ~</code>	Go to home directory
<code>cd -</code>	Previous directory
<code>find / -name file</code>	Find file everywhere
<code>locate filename</code>	Fast file search
<code>which command</code>	Find command path

## FILE OPERATIONS

<code>cp -r src/ dst/</code>	Copy recursively
<code>mv old new</code>	Move / rename
<code>rm -rf dir/</code>	Delete directory (careful!)
<code>mkdir -p a/b/c</code>	Create nested dirs
<code>touch file.txt</code>	Create empty file
<code>ln -s target link</code>	Symbolic link
<code>chmod 755 file</code>	Set permissions
<code>chown user:grp f</code>	Change owner
<code>umask 022</code>	Default permissions

## FILE VIEWING

<code>cat file.txt</code>	Display file
<code>less file.txt</code>	Page through file
<code>head -20 file</code>	First 20 lines
<code>tail -20 file</code>	Last 20 lines
<code>tail -f logfile</code>	Follow log live
<code>grep 'pat' file</code>	Search pattern
<code>grep -r 'pat' .</code>	Recursive search
<code>grep -i 'pat' f</code>	Case insensitive
<code>wc -l file</code>	Count lines

## PROCESS MGMT

<code>ps aux</code>	All processes
<code>ps aux   grep x</code>	Find process
<code>top / htop</code>	Live monitor
<code>kill PID</code>	Kill process
<code>kill -9 PID</code>	Force kill
<code>killall nginx</code>	Kill by name
<code>nohup cmd &amp;</code>	Run in background
<code>jobs</code>	List bg jobs
<code>Ctrl+Z / bg / fg</code>	Suspend/bg/fg

## NETWORKING

<code>ip addr</code>	Show IP addresses
<code>ping -c4 host</code>	Ping test
<code>traceroute host</code>	Trace route
<code>nslookup domain</code>	DNS lookup
<code>dig domain</code>	Detailed DNS
<code>curl -I https://x</code>	HTTP headers
<code>ss -tuln</code>	Open ports
<code>netstat -tuln</code>	Open ports (old)
<code>iptables -L</code>	Firewall rules

## DISK & SYSTEM

<code>df -h</code>	Disk space usage
<code>du -sh dir/</code>	Directory size
<code>free -h</code>	RAM usage
<code>uptime</code>	System uptime
<code>uname -a</code>	Kernel info
<code>lsb_release -a</code>	Distro info
<code>lscpu</code>	CPU info
<code>lsblk</code>	List disks
<code>mount   grep /d</code>	Mounted FSes

## BONUS: SHORTCUTS & OPERATORS

<code>!!</code>	<code>Ctrl+R</code>	<code>history</code>	<code>alias ll='ls -la'</code>
Repeat last command	Search history	Show all commands	Create alias

<code>export VAR=val</code> Set env variable	<code>  grep</code> Pipe to grep	<code>  sort</code> Pipe to sort	<code>  wc -l</code> Count lines
<code>&gt;&gt; file</code> Append to file	<code>&gt; file</code> Overwrite file	<code>2&gt;&amp;1</code> Redirect stderr to stdout	<code>&amp;&amp;</code> Run if previous succeeds