

TERMINAL COMMANDS



Environment

Command Reference

\$ macOS / Linux

PS> Windows PowerShell

Everyday commands for a beginner programmer

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Print your current working directory

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **pwd**

\$ pwd

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **pwd**

PS> pwd

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List the contents of the current folder

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **ls**

\$ ls -la

-l = long format -a = show hidden files

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **ls**

PS> ls -Force

-Force = show hidden items too

TERMINAL COMMANDS



Change directory — move into another folder

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **cd**

\$ cd projects/python

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **cd**

PS> cd projects\python

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Create a new directory (folder)

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **mkdir**

\$ mkdir python-app

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **mkdir**

PS> mkdir python-app

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Create a new, empty file

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **touch**

\$ touch app.py

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **New-Item**

PS> New-Item app.py

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Delete a file permanently – no trash bin!

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **rm**

\$ rm temp.log

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **rm**

PS> rm temp.log

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Copy a file or folder to a new location

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **cp**

\$ cp app.py backup.py

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **cp**

PS> cp app.py backup.py

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Move — or rename — a file or folder

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **mv**

\$ mv app.py src/app.py

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **mv**

PS> mv app.py src\app.py

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Print a file's contents to the terminal

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **cat**

\$ cat README.md

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **cat**

PS> cat README.md

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Clear the terminal screen

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **clear**

\$ clear

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **cls**

PS> cls

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Open the current folder in VS Code

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **code** .

\$ code .

the . means "this folder"

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **code** .

PS> code .

the . means "this folder"

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Open a specific file directly

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **code <file>**

\$ code app.py

<file> = the file you want to open

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **code <file>**

PS> code app.py

<file> = the file you want to open

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Jump straight to a line an error points you to

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **code -g**

\$ code -g app.py:42

file:line = filename, then the line number

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **code -g**

PS> code -g app.py:42

file:line = filename, then the line number

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Open the current folder in Finder /
Explorer

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **open** .

\$ open .

the . means "this folder"

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **start** .

PS> start .

the . means "this folder"

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```
# Run a Python script
```

MACOS / LINUX

```
$ python3
```

```
$ python3 app.py
```

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

```
PS> python
```

```
PS> python app.py
```

Windows usually installs it as "python"

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Run a JavaScript file with Node.js

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **node**

\$ node app.js

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **node**

PS> node app.js

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Check that a tool is installed, and its version

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **--version**

\$ python3 --version

works with most tools: node, git, npm...

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **--version**

PS> python --version

works with most tools: node, git, npm...

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```
# Find where a command lives on your  
PATH
```

MACOS / LINUX

```
$ which
```

```
$ which python3
```

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

```
PS> Get-Command
```

```
PS> Get-Command python
```

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Look up how to use a command

MACOS / LINUX

\$ **man**

\$ man ls

WINDOWS POWERSHELL

PS> **help**

PS> help ls