

Exercise 2: Command and reflect

Go through each of the steps, one, two, three, and so on, entering the text there into the command line, exactly as it is written. As you go along try to answer the questions in the empty space provided. If you get stuck on a question enter “man <and the command you have a question about>” in the command line to bring up a manual for that command, as we did in the first exercise. If you are still stuck then try typing your question into a search bar. For example if one is stuck trying to figure out what the command “cat” does, they’d search Google for, “cat command linux” or “cat command examples” or “cat stackoverflow”.

- 1) cd /bin
- 2) pwd
- 3) cd
- 4) pwd

What does “pwd” do?

- 5) cd - (if you’re having trouble with step 5, make sure you’ve done steps 1-5 in order)
- 6) pwd
- 7) cd -
- 8) pwd

What does “cd -” do?

- 9) cd
- 10) mkdir practice
- 11) cd practice
- 12) ls
- 13) touch newfile1
- 14) ls

“touch” creates a new file with the given name. What does “ls” do?

- 15) ls -l (<-- this is two lower case L’s, one s)

What does adding “-l” to “ls” do?

- 16) echo “I am having fun.” >> newfile1
- 17) cat newfile1

“cat” displays the file contents. What does “echo... >>” do?

- 18) echo “I am having fun.” >> newfile2
- 19) echo “I am not having fun.” >> newfile3

20) `cmp newfile1 newfile3`

21) `cmp newfile1 newfile2`

What does “cmp” do? What does it output if the two files are the same?

22) `gedit newfile2`

23) `ls`

What happens when you type “ls” on the command line while gedit is open?

Close down gedit.

24) `gedit newfile2 &`

25) `ls`

Did “ls” work this time? Not the difference between step 22 and step 24. What does the trailing ampersand do?

26) `gedit n <TAB>`

What did pressing <TAB> do?

We’re now going to go through how you would install a program on the command line. To demonstrate this we will install the classic program vim.

27) `sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install vim`

Enter “Y” when asked whether you would like to go through with the install.

28) `vim newfile1`

29) `i` (<-- in vim, i stands for insert. typing “i” allows you to insert text)

30) <Type in whatever text you like here>

31) <Esc button>

32) `:wq`

33) `cat newfile1`

34) `rm newfile1`

35) `cat newfile1`

What did “rm” do?

36) `pwd`

37) `cd ..`

38) `pwd`

What did “cd ..” do?

39) `rm practice`

40) `rm -r practice`

41) `cd practice`

What did “rm -r” do?