

Introduction to Shell

This sheet follows an abridged but complete summary of the Introduction to Command Line. Code that you should type into your terminal will be in blue and highlighted in grey.

- **Create a folder called ala-git on your desktop, using your normal method.**

Open the terminal.

Find out where you are by running a command called `pwd` (which stands for “print working directory”).

Once we know what directory we’re in, the next thing we often want to do is move somewhere else. This will take two steps: find out where else there is to move to, and then move to that directory. We’re going to start by LISTING `ls` the subfolders and files of our current directory, assuming we start at your user directory, where most terminals start. The command for this is `ls` - or LIST.

`ls` prints the names of the files and directories in the current directory. We can make its output more comprehensible by using the **option** `-F` (also known as a **switch** or an **option**), which tells `ls` to add a marker to file and directory names to indicate what they are. A trailing `/` indicates that this is a directory.

Run `ls -F /`

We’re going to CHANGE DIRECTORY `cd` to all move to DESKTOP then to the ala-git folder we created. Depending on where we are, this could involve going “up” or “down” in the file structure.

```
cd Desktop
pwd
cd ala-git
```

`cd` can only see sub-directories inside your current directory. To move up, use `cd ..`. `..` is a special directory name meaning “the directory containing this one”, or more succinctly, the **parent** of the current directory.

```
cd ..
pwd
```

Move back to ala-git by running `cd ala-git`

```
pwd
ls -F /
```

Make a biography: `mkdir biography`

Start a text document: `nano draft.txt`

Add a sentence: `My name is [your name.]` Close by pressing CTRL (^) X, pressing Y (to save) and ENTER.

Add another sentence: `nano draft.txt` (find old commands by pressing the UP ARROW). Add a sentence about what you do or want to do. Close by pressing CTRL (^) X, pressing Y (to save) and ENTER.

Moving

```
pwd
ls
mv draft.txt biography
ls
ls biography
mv biography/draft.txt biography/biography.txt
ls biography
```

Copying

```
cp biography.txt my-biography.txt
cd biography (using tab)
cp biography.txt my-biography.txt (using UP ARROW)
ls
```

Recursive copying

```
cd ..
pwd
cp -R biography biography_backup
ls biography biography_backup
```

Deleting

```
cd biography
pwd
ls
THINK FOR A SECOND BEFORE TYPING: DO YOU WANT TO DELETE THIS?
rm biography.txt
ls
```