Top 25 Linux Commands I Use Weekly

A practical list of Linux commands I personally use most often during system monitoring, server administration, scripting, and troubleshooting.
Use this list as a quick reference or jump-off point for deeper Linux command mastery.

□□ System Monitoring & Info

Shows real-time process activity, CPU usage, memory, and system load.

```
top
```

Interactive version of `top` with easier navigation and color-coded output.

```
htop
```

Displays RAM usage with human-readable units.

```
free -h
```

Shows disk usage by mounted partitions in human-readable format.

```
df -h
```

Shows size of each item in the current directory.

```
du -sh *
```

Displays how long the system has been up and the current load.

```
uptime
```

Prints kernel version and system info.

```
uname -a
```

Displays the current user name.

```
whoami
```

□□ Networking & Firewall

Displays network interfaces and IPs.

```
ip a
```

Shows the routing table.

```
ip r
```

Shows UFW rules with index numbers for deletion.

```
sudo ufw status numbered
```

Allows incoming SSH connections via UFW.

```
sudo ufw allow 22/tcp
```

Lists all listening ports (older tool).

```
sudo netstat -tuln
```

Modern alternative to netstat for listing open ports.

```
ss -tuln
```

Tests network connectivity with ICMP packets.

```
ping 1.1.1.1
```

□□ File & Directory Management

Lists files including hidden files and sizes.

```
ls -lah
```

Changes the current directory.

```
cd /path/to/directory
```

Copies a file or folder.

```
cp source destination
```

Renames or moves a file or folder.

```
mv oldname newname
```

Removes a directory and all its contents (⚠ dangerous).

```
rm -rf /path/to/folder
```

Edits files using a simple terminal-based editor.

```
nano filename.txt
```

Displays contents of a file.

```
cat filename.txt
```

Follows a log file in real time.

```
sudo tail -f /var/log/syslog
```

⚙ Package Management (Debian/Ubuntu)

Updates package list and installs available upgrades.

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

Installs a new package by name.

```
sudo apt install packagename
```

Searches installed packages for a string.

```
dpkg -l | grep keyword
```

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