Some Basic Linux Commands

1. ls: list
   For long list, use
   ls -l
2. Linux commands have help or manual available. For example, if you need help for the command ls do
   ls -- help
   If help page is too long to be displayed, use
   ls -- help | more
3. touch: used to create an empty text file. For example to create a file with name foobar do
   touch foobar
4. rm: used to remove a file or a directory (folder). To delete a file named foobar do
   rm foobar
   To avoid an accidental removal of a file you are recommended to use -i option like
   rm -i foobar
   It will ask you if you really want to remove the file foobar. Remember once you delete files using rm command you cannot recover them.
   To remove a folder do use -r or -rf option. For example to delete the folder named test do
   rm -r test
   or
   rm -rf test
5. cp: used to copy a file or a folder. The syntax is
   cp source destination
   For example, if you want to copy the file foobar in your current location to a folder named test do
   cp foobar /home/user/test/
   or shortly
   cp foobar ~/test/
   Here we assume that your username is user.
6. mv: used to move a file or a folder. The syntax is the same as cp. The command mv actually does copy and delete.
7. mkdir: used to create a folder. For example to create a folder named test do
   mkdir test
8. rmdir: used to delete a folder. For example to delete a folder named test do
   rmdir test
   Note that rmdir works only if the folder is empty.
9. chmod: used to change the mode (read/write/execute) a file or a folder for user/group members/outsiders. If you want allow user/group members/outsiders to read write the file foobar do

chmod ugo+rw foobar

If you no loner wants to allow outsiders to write your file foobar, do

chmod o-w foobar

If you want to allow user and group members to read write execute the folder test, do

chmod -R ugo+rwx test

Note that folders have to be remained executable, otherwise you won't be able to access them.

10. chown: used to change the ownership of a file or a folder. If you want to grant the ownership of the folder test and all files within test to a user whose username is user and who belongs to a group named group, do

chown -R user:group test

11. adduser: used to create a user. It requires sudo. To create a user with username user do

sudo adduser user

12. deluser: used to delete a user. It requires sudo. To delete a user with username user do

sudo deluser user

Note that deluser command does not delete the account folder named user.

13. passwd: used to change password of a user. To change your own password simply do

password

To change another user's password (say that of user2) as a sudoer do

passwd user2

14. visudo: used to add a sudoer. To add user2 as a sudoer do

sudo visudo

and add the following line

user2 ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

under

Allow members of group sudo to execute any command

%sudo ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL

Save and close visudo by pressing Ctrl+X.

15. apt remove: used to remove a package. It requires sudo and it removes all packaged data but usually leaves user configuration files behind. The syntax is

sudo apt remove package_name

If you also want to remove associated user configuration files as well, do

sudo apt purge package_name

16. apt autoremove: used to delete all downloaded binaries and source files that are no longer used by the system. The syntax is

sudo apt autoremove