

mega terminal cheat sheet

keyboard shortcuts

editing text (always works)
(almost)

backspace
 Ctrl+W delete word
 Ctrl+U delete line
 (except in text editors)

editing text (often works)

arrow keys

Ctrl+A or Home beginning of line
 Ctrl+E or End end of line
 Ctrl+arrow keys left/right a word
 (or sometimes Alt+arrow keys
 or Option+arrow keys
 or Alt+b/Alt+f)

Ctrl+K delete forward
 Ctrl+Y paste
 Ctrl+H might help if
 Backspace doesn't work

also many shells have a "vi mode" if that's your jam

in less

/ search
 n/N next/prev match
 space/PageDn scroll down

ways to quit

Ctrl+C quit (SIGINT)
 Ctrl+Z stop process (SIGTSTP)
 (resume with fg or bg or kill with kill)
 Ctrl+D quit (in a REPL)
 q quit (in a TUI)
 Enter ~ . exit frozen SSH session
 Ctrl+\ send SIGQUIT (quit and core dump)

other useful stuff

Ctrl+L clear screen
 Ctrl+R search history
 Ctrl+Q unfreeze screen (that you froze with Ctrl+S)

copy and paste
 in your terminal emulator, it's usually:
 Ctrl+Shift+C/V or Cmd+C/V
 if selecting text doesn't work, try holding Shift

mouse stuff that might work

Option+click or Alt+click place cursor
 scroll wheel scroll

core tasks

glob expansion

expand filenames with `*` "glob"
`ls *.png`
 expand in all subdirectories:
`wc **/*.txt`
 (not all shells support ** though)

switch users

run a command as root with `sudo cmd`
 or start a new shell as root:
`su`

change directories

go to home directory:
`cd`
 go to prev directory:
`cd -`
 go to /some/dir:
`cd /some/dir`



set environment variables

set a variable for just one command:
`env NAME=val cmd` ← they do almost the same thing but I prefer the env version because it behaves the same in every shell
`NAME=val cmd`
 set it for the whole session:
`export NAME=val` ← also what you put in your bash/zsh config file to set it permanently (in fish it's set -e)

view environment:
`env`
 search environment:
`env | grep MAIL`

pipes & redirects

redirect to a file:
`cmd > file.txt`

append to a file:
`cmd >> file.txt`

send a file to stdin:
`cmd < file.txt`

redirect stderr to a file:
`cmd 2> file.txt`

redirect stdout AND stderr:
`cmd > file.txt 2>&1`

pipe output to a program:
`cmd1 | cmd2`

pipe both stdout AND stderr:
`cmd1 2>&1 | cmd2`

more useful commands

history

look at history:
`history`
 rerun previous command as root:
`sudo !!` ← bash/zsh
 search history:
`Ctrl+R`

job control

list jobs:
`jobs` ← lists numbered jobs, you can refer to them like %2

stop a program from closing when the terminal tab is closed:
`nohup CMD`
`disown %1`

killing programs

send a SIGTERM:
`kill PID` (Plz stop)

send a SIGKILL (can't be ignored):
`kill -9 PID` (DIE!!)

Kill all processes with python3 anywhere in its arguments:
`killall python3`

kill all processes named python3:
`killall python3`

see what's using all your CPU:
`top` or `htop`

find a process's PID to kill it:
`$ ps aux | grep python3`
 bork(7213)... python3
 ↑
 the PID

force program not to buffer its output

make its output a TTY:
`unbuffer CMD`

use LD_PRELOAD hacks to change libc's buffering:
`stdbuf (TODO)`

fix messed up terminal

clear the screen:
`clear`

ask the terminal emulator & OS to reset everything:
`reset`

(or just close it and open a new tab!)

aliases

`alias ll="ls -l"`

PATH debugging

find the first time a program appears in PATH:
`which CMD`

find all instances of program in PATH:
`which -a CMD`

ask your shell if CMD is a function or alias or program:
`type CMD`