

Terminal Cheat Sheet

Windows · PowerShell

The everyday commands — find your way, make folders, move files. Python for Biologists.

Open the terminal

1. Press the `Win` key, type **PowerShell**, hit `Enter`
2. (or right-click **Start** → **Terminal**)
3. Use **PowerShell** — not the old **Command Prompt** (cmd)

You'll see a prompt like: `PS C:\Users\you>`

Find your way

```
pwd           # where am I?
ls            # list files (or: dir)
ls -Force     # include hidden files
cd folder     # go into a folder
cd ..         # go up one level
cd ~          # go home
clear         # clear the screen (or cls)
cat file.txt  # show a file's contents
```

Make things

```
mkdir data    # make a folder
mkdir a\b\c   # nested folders
ni notes.txt  # make an empty file
```

Paths use `\` (backslash): `cd Documents\data`

Copy · move · delete

```
cp a.txt b.txt # copy a file
cp -r dir1 dir2 # copy a folder
mv a.txt data\ # move a file
mv old.txt new.txt # rename a file
rm file.txt     # delete a file
rm -r folder    # delete a folder
```

Careful: `rm` is permanent — it does **not** use the Recycle Bin.

Help & shortcuts

```
Get-Help ls    # help for a command
ls -?          # quick usage
```

`Tab` auto-completes names · `↑` `↓` scroll previous commands

PRO TIP

A nicer terminal — Warp

[warp.dev](#) is a free, modern terminal (same on Windows & Mac) with autocomplete and a built-in AI helper — a teacher, not a crutch. Download it, choose **Skip for now** (no account needed). Every command above works exactly the same in it.