

MEGA TERMINAL

Keyboard shortcuts

editing text (always works)

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

editing text

(these often work in a
 readline-like situation)

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 accidentally 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 place cursor
 or Alt+click
 scroll wheel scroll

core tasks

glob expansion

expand filenames with `*` ← "glob"
 ls *.png
 expand in all subdirectories:
 wc **/*.txt
 (not all shells support ** though)
 include files starting with a dot:
 ls .*

switch users

run a command as root with sudo
 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 one command:
 env NAME=val cmd
 NAME=val cmd
 (they do almost the same
 thing but I prefer the env
 version because it behaves
 the same in every shell)

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 -x NAME val)

view environment:

env

search environment:

env | grep MAIL

fixing broken output

fix messed up terminal

clear the screen:
 clear
 ask the terminal emulator &
 OS to reset everything:
 reset
 (or just open a new tab!)

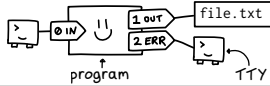
force program not to buffer its output

make its output a TTY with:
 unbuffer CMD

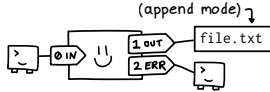
CHEAT SHEET

pipes & redirects

redirect to a file:
cmd > file.txt



append to a file:
cmd >> file.txt



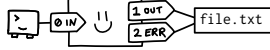
send a file to stdin:
cmd < file.txt



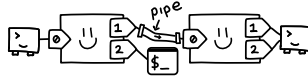
redirect stderr to a file:
cmd 2> file.txt



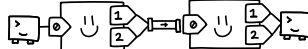
redirect stdout AND stderr:
cmd > file.txt 2>&1
-or-
cmd &> file.txt



pipe stdout:
cmd1 | cmd2



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



managing processes

Killing programs

send a SIGTERM:
kill PID

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

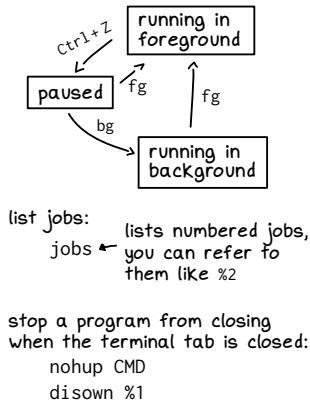
Kill all processes with python3
anywhere in its arguments:
pkill python3

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

job control



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

& more

history

look at history:
history

search history:
Ctrl+R

rerun prev command as root:
sudo !!

rerun line 33 from history:
!33

add a directory to your PATH

at the end:
export PATH=\$PATH:/my/dir

at the beginning:
export PATH=/my/dir:\$PATH

in fish the syntax is
different, like:
set PATH \$PATH /my/dir

PATH debugging

show each PATH entry on its
own line:
echo "\$PATH" | tr ':' '\n'

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

aliases

alias ll="ls -l"