

# Is Cheatsheet

By Dejan Panovski • Updated on Feb 21, 2026 • [Download PDF](#)

## Quick reference for listing files and directories with ls in Linux

The `ls` command lists files and directories in Linux. This cheatsheet covers the most common listing, sorting, filtering, and output-format options you will use in daily terminal work.

### Basic Listing

Use these commands for everyday directory listing.

<code>ls</code>	List files in current directory
<code>ls /path/to/dir</code>	List files in specific directory
<code>ls -l</code>	One entry per line
<code>ls -a</code>	Include hidden files
<code>ls -A</code>	Include hidden files except <code>.</code> and <code>..</code>

### Long Format and Metadata

Show permissions, ownership, size, and timestamps.

<code>ls -l</code>	Long listing format
<code>ls -lh</code>	Human-readable file sizes
<code>ls -la</code>	Long format with hidden files
<code>ls -ln</code>	Numeric UID and GID
<code>ls -li</code>	Show inode numbers

### Sorting

Sort files by time, size, extension, or version.

<code>ls -lt</code>	Sort by modification time (newest first)
<code>ls -ltr</code>	Sort by modification time (oldest first)
<code>ls -lS</code>	Sort by file size (largest first)
<code>ls -lX</code>	Sort by extension
<code>ls -lv</code>	Natural sort for version-like names

## Time Display

Control which timestamp is shown.

<code>ls -lt --time=atime</code>	Sort/show by access time
<code>ls -lt --time=ctime</code>	Sort/show by status change time
<code>ls -l --time-style=long-iso</code>	ISO-like date format
<code>ls -l --full-time</code>	Full timestamp precision

## Directory Views

List directories recursively or show directory entries only.

<code>ls -la --group-directories-first</code>	Long listing with directories before files
<code>ls -d */</code>	List only directories in current path
<code>ls -ld /path/to/dir</code>	Show metadata for directory itself
<code>ls -R</code>	Recursive listing
<code>ls -laR</code>	Recursive long listing with hidden files

## Output Formatting

Adjust visual style and indicators.

<code>ls -F</code>	Append indicator ( <code>/</code> , <code>*</code> , <code>@</code> ) by file type
<code>ls -p</code>	Append <code>/</code> to directories
<code>ls -m</code>	Comma-separated output
<code>ls -x</code>	List entries across rows instead of down columns
<code>ls --color=auto</code>	Enable colorized output when supported

## Filtering with Globs

List files that match shell patterns.

<code>ls *.log</code>	List files ending in <code>.log</code>
<code>ls file?.txt</code>	Match single-character wildcard
<code>ls [ab]*.conf</code>	Match names starting with <code>a</code> or <code>b</code>
<code>ls -d .[^.]*</code>	List hidden files (common shell pattern)

## Common Patterns

Frequent command combinations.

<code>ls -lah</code>	Most common detailed listing
<code>ls -lhS</code>	Largest files first with readable sizes
<code>ls -lat</code>	Newest files first including hidden entries
<code>`ls -l</code>	<code>wc -l`</code>
<code>`ls -l</code>	<code>grep '^d`</code>

## Troubleshooting

Quick checks for typical listing issues.

Hidden files not visible	Add <code>-a</code> or <code>-A</code>
File sizes are hard to read	Use <code>-h</code> with <code>-l</code>
Wrong sort order	Confirm flags ( <code>-t</code> , <code>-S</code> , <code>-X</code> , <code>-r</code> )
No color output	Try <code>ls --color=auto</code> and check alias settings
Path looks empty	Verify permissions with <code>ls -ld /path</code>

## Related Guides

Use these references for deeper file management workflows.

<a href="#">How to List Files in Linux Using the ls Command</a>	Full ls guide with practical examples
<a href="#">Du Command in Linux</a>	Check disk usage and file sizes
<a href="#">Linux Commands Cheatsheet</a>	General command quick reference