1) Important directories / files

- `/etc/resolv.conf` : list of dns resolvers ("hostname" -> IP Address)
  -> usually the one from your ISP, but there are open servers, like `8.8.8.8` (google)
- `/etc/network/interfaces` & `/etc/hosts` : local network setup (fix or dhcp)
- `/etc/ssh/` : openssh daemon configuration
- `/etc/motd` : server "welcome screen"
- `/etc/hosts.allow` + `/etc/hosts.deny` : to limit remote access to specific services
- `/etc/passwd` + `/etc/shadow` : system logins & encrypted passwords (one-way encryption)
- `/etc/services`: list of known ports -> allows to type "`telnet localhost pop3`" (instead of using "110")
- `/etc/crontab` : system wide crontab (format: `man 5 crontab`)
- `/proc` : virtual filesystem, with live information about the system, hardware and processes (used by top, ps, etc.)
- `/var/log` : location of system logfiles. Right place to look when something is not running correcly
- `/var/spool/cron/crontabs`: user crontabs (same as `/etc/crontab`, but for users, edited with '`crontab -e`'
- `/usr/share/doc/` : documentations of the installed packages

2) Important shell commands
  (http://tangosoft.com/refcard/refcard-en-a4.pdf for more)

- `cat`, `more`, `less` : display a file to the screen
- `cd`, `mkdir`, `rmdir` : directory management
- `ls` : directory listing. "`ls -la`": long "`ls -latr`": sort by date "`ls -laSr`" : sort by size
- `cp`, `mv` , `rm` : copy, move, delete files
- `gzip`, `bzip2`, `gunzip`, `bunzip2`, `zip`, `unzip` : compress files
- `tar` : create/open archives
- `zless`, `zcat`, `bzless`, `bzcat` : unzip + display
- `ps` : show current processes ("`ps fawux`" for example)
- `pstree`: show process tree, top: live process display
- `uptime`, `w`, `who` : system uptime, who is connected
- `last` : last connections
- `ln` : create link, `ln -s` : create symbolic link
- `su -` : become root ; `su - username` : become username
- `ssh`, `scp`, `sftp`: secure shell, secure copy
- `telnet`: connect to a network port
- `dmesg` : display boot and kernel messages
- `kill`, `killall` : terminate process
- `find`, `locate` : to find a specific file/directory

3) Tips/Tricks

- `history` : display the last commands, which can be run by !<cmd_nr> or !first_letters
- Ctrl-R : reverse-search in the history
- `screen` : virtual terminal manager
  -> start with '`screen`'
  -> open a new "terminal screen" with Ctrl-a c
  -> switch to a screen: Ctrl-a <number>
  -> leave the screen (keeping everything running) : Ctrl-a d
  -> reattach to this screen: `screen -r` (`screen -d` before if already attached somewhere else)
  -> kill current screen: Ctrl-a k
  -> list all screens: Ctrl-a "
  -> other commands: Ctrl-a ?

4) References: http://tldp.org/guides.html (free) and http://oreilly.com/linux/