File Names

- LINUX permits file names to use most characters, but avoid spaces, tabs and characters that have a special meaning to the shell, such as:

  ```
  & ; ( ) | ? \ ' " ` [ ] { } < > $ - ! /
  ```

- Case Sensitivity: uppercase and lowercase are not the same! These are three different files:

  ```
  NOVEMBER        November       november
  ```

- Length: can be up to 256 characters

- Extensions: may be used to identify types of files
  ```
  libc.a       - archive, library file
  program.c    - C language source file
  alpha2.f     - Fortran source file
  xwd2ps.o     - Object/executable code
  mygames.Z    - Compressed file
  ```

- Hidden Files: have names that begin with a dot (.) For example:
  ```
  .cshrc       .login       .mailrc       .mwmrc
  ```

- Uniqueness: as children in a family, no two files with the same parent directory can have the same name. Files located in separate directories can have identical names.

- Reserved Filenames:
  ```
  /    - the root directory (slash)
  .    - current directory (period)
  ..   - parent directory (double period)
  ~    - your home directory (tilde)
  ```