Information is available online to explain how to use most of the commands you encounter on the system. In fact, all UNIX commands are described in the online documentation called the UNIX Man(ual) Pages. A separate man page exists for every command. The man command followed by the name of a UNIX command will bring up that command’s man page in a more display format.

Most man pages provide the following information:

- **Name**: a simple definition of the command.
- **Syntax**: the correct way to type the command and its options and arguments.
- **Description**: a longer explanation of how to use the command and in what situations.
- **Options**: the options (characters or terms preceded by a hyphen) that may be combined with the command and what effect they have.
- **Restrictions**: known limitations on the use of the command.
- **See Also**: a list of cross-references to other commands that are related to or can shed light on the use of the command.

You may notice that the commands have a numerical argument, such as `zwrite(1)` or `chmod(2)`. This number refers to the type of command the argument is (see list in margin).

Most of the commands the general user will be referencing will be of the (1) User Command variety, so this is the default. Some commands, such as `chmod`, have multiple usages; `chmod` has man pages set up for `chmod(1)`, `chmod(2)` and `chmod(3f)`.

To look up a set of commands of a particular type, use man with the option `-k` for `keyword`, which lets you to specify a keyword to search for.

For more information on the man command, a logical place to look is `man man`, which displays the UNIX manual page on man itself.