Many open source project communities are hosted on Freenode IRC. Some of the instructions on this cheat sheet may be different on other servers.

**BASIC COMMANDS**

/msg NickServ REGISTER password youremail@example.com
Registers your IRC nickname with the NickServ service, protecting it from use by other people. This command will register the nickname you are using at the time you run the command. Doing this is only necessary once per nickname.

/msg NickServ IDENTIFY nick password
Logs you in (i.e., “identifies” you) as nick using password. Identifying is optional—but advisable—as some commands require identification.

/list
Displays a list of all of the channels that currently exist on an IRC network.

/join channelname
Joins you to the IRC channel channelname. If channelname does not exist yet, one will be created.

/msg nick
Starts a private message session to nick.

/query nick
An alternate form of /msg nick.

/me action
Displays a message in which you appear to perform the action (for example, /me sleeps).

/away message
Sets an away status on your nickname with the associated and optional message providing additional information (for example, “Back after lunch”). Sending the /away command again will remove the status.

/who nick
Presents more information about nick. The information presented is limited to what nick chooses to share.

/whois nick
Similar to the /who command.

/leave channelname
Removes you from the IRC channel channelname. The channelname is optional if the command is run in the channel you want to leave.

/quit
Disconnects you from the IRC network.

/help
Used alone, presents a list of possible help topics. Followed by the name of one of those topics, presents additional usage information for the selected topic.

**INTERMEDIATE COMMANDS**

/motd
Displays the message of the day (motd) for the current server/network.

/topic
Displays the topic for the current channel.

/topic topictext
Sets the channel topic to topictext.

/ignore nick
Ignore all messages (including private messages) from the specified nickname.

**ADVANCED COMMANDS**

/GROUPING NICKNAMES

/nick nicktoaddtogroup
Change to use the nickname you’d like to add to a group.

/msg NickServ GROUP registerednickname passwordforregisterednickname
Add the currently used nickname to the group associated with your registered nickname.

/leave channelname
Removes you from the IRC channel channelname. The channelname is optional if the command is run in the channel you want to leave.

/quit
Disconnects you from the IRC network.

/help
Used alone, presents a list of possible help topics. Followed by the name of one of those topics, presents additional usage information for the selected topic.

**REGISTERING A CHANNEL**

/changeto
Change to use the nickname you’d like to add to a group.

/msg NickServ GROUP registerednickname passwordforregisterednickname
Add the currently used nickname to the group associated with your registered nickname.

**CHANGING CHANNEL MODES**

/modify channel +modecode
Add the mode denoted by modecode to the channel.

/modify channel -modecode
Remove the mode denoted by modecode from the channel.

**SETTING USER MODES**

/modify channel +modecode
Add the mode denoted by modecode to the channel.

/modify channel -modecode
Remove the mode denoted by modecode from the channel.

/modify usermode +modecode
Add the mode denoted by modecode to the user.

/modify usermode -modecode
Remove the mode denoted by modecode from the user.

**ASSIGNING OPERATOR STATUS**

/changeto
Change to use the nickname you’d like to add to a group.

/msg NickServ GROUP registerednickname passwordforregisterednickname
Add the currently used nickname to the group associated with your registered nickname.