cqlsh Cassandra query shell

START HERE

`cqlsh <host>`
Connect to a node

`DESCRIBE TABLE <table>`
Show table definition

`DESCRIBE KEYSPACES`
List keyspaces

`SELECT * FROM <table> LIMIT 10;`
Peek at rows

`USE <keyspace>;`
Switch keyspace

`CONSISTENCY QUORUM`
Set read/write consistency

`DESCRIBE TABLES`
List tables

`EXIT`
Leave the shell

CONCEPTS

Statements end with a semicolon; shell commands such as DESCRIBE or CONSISTENCY do not need one.

Cluster nodes, partitioner
  Keyspace replication settings
    Table partition key + clustering
      Row columns

cqlsh talks to one node; the coordinator it picks applies the chosen consistency level to each request.

CONNECT

`cqlsh <host> <port>`
Connect to a node (default port 9042)

`cqlsh -u <user> -p <password> <host>`
Authenticate on connect
A password on the command line shows up in the process list; prefer a credentials file.

`cqlsh -k <keyspace> <host>`
Start in a keyspace

`cqlsh --ssl <host>`
Connect over TLS

`cqlsh -e "<statement>" <host>`
Run one statement and quit

`cqlsh -f <file.cql> <host>`
Run a script file and quit

`cqlsh --request-timeout=<sec> <host>`
Raise the request timeout (default 10)

`cqlsh --cqlshrc=<file> <host>`
Use another cqlshrc

`cqlsh --no-color <host>`
Disable colour output

`cqlsh --version`
Print the cqlsh version

EXPLORE SCHEMA

`DESCRIBE CLUSTER`
Cluster name and partitioner

`DESCRIBE KEYSPACES`
List all keyspaces

`DESCRIBE KEYSPACE <keyspace>`
DDL of one keyspace

`DESCRIBE TABLES`
Tables in current keyspace

`DESCRIBE TABLE <table>`
DDL of a table

EXPLORE SCHEMA (cont.)

`DESCRIBE SCHEMA`
DDL for the whole schema

`DESCRIBE INDEX <index>`
Show a secondary index

`DESCRIBE MATERIALIZED VIEW <view>`
Show a materialized view

`DESCRIBE TYPES`
List user-defined types

`DESC <object>`
Short form of DESCRIBE

SESSION CONTROL

`USE <keyspace>;`
Make a keyspace current

`CONSISTENCY <level>`
Set consistency level
Levels: ANY, ONE, TWO, THREE, QUORUM, ALL, LOCAL_QUORUM, LOCAL_ONE, SERIAL, LOCAL_SERIAL.

`CONSISTENCY`
Show current consistency level

`SERIAL CONSISTENCY <level>`
Consistency for IF (LWT) writes
Takes SERIAL or LOCAL_SERIAL.

`TRACING ON`
Print a trace after each query

`TRACING OFF`
Stop tracing

`EXPAND ON`
One column per line

`EXPAND OFF`
Back to table output

`PAGING ON`
Page results with a prompt

`PAGING <rows>`
Set the page size

`PAGING OFF`
Print all rows at once

`EXIT`
Quit the shell

SERVER AND FILES

`SHOW VERSION`
cqlsh, Cassandra and protocol versions

`SHOW HOST`
Connected node and cluster name

`SHOW SESSION <session-id>`
Pretty-print a trace session

`SHOW REPLICAS <token> <keyspace>`
Replicas for a token

`SOURCE '<file.cql>'`
Run a CQL file from the prompt

SERVER AND FILES (cont.)

`CAPTURE '<file>'`
Append query output to a file

`CAPTURE OFF`
Stop capturing output

`HELP <topic>`
Built-in help on a command

BASIC CQL

`CREATE KEYSPACE <ks> WITH replication = {'class': 'SimpleStrategy', 'replication_factor': 1};`
Create a keyspace

`CREATE TABLE <table> (<id> uuid PRIMARY KEY, <col> text);`
Create a table

`INSERT INTO <table> (<id>, <col>) VALUES (<id>, '<val>');`
Insert a row

`SELECT * FROM <table> WHERE <id> = <value>;`
Read by partition key

`SELECT * FROM <table> LIMIT <n>;`
Limit rows returned

`UPDATE <table> SET <col> = '<val>' WHERE <id> = <value>;`
Change a column

`DELETE FROM <table> WHERE <id> = <value>;`
Delete a row

`TRUNCATE <table>;`
Remove all rows

`ALTER TABLE <table> ADD <col> <type>;`
Add a column

`DROP TABLE <table>;`
Delete a table

`CREATE INDEX ON <table> (<col>);`
Secondary index on a column

`SELECT * FROM <table> WHERE <col> = '<val>' ALLOW FILTERING;`
Filter without index (slow)
Scans many partitions; avoid on large tables.

COPY IMPORT AND EXPORT

`COPY <table> TO '<file.csv>' WITH HEADER = true;`
Export a table to CSV

`COPY <table> FROM '<file.csv>' WITH HEADER = true;`
Import CSV into a table

COPY IMPORT AND EXPORT (cont.)

`COPY <table> (<col1>, <col2>) TO STDOUT;`
Export chosen columns

`COPY <table> FROM '<file.csv>' WITH INGESTRATE = <n>;`
Throttle an import

`COPY <table> FROM '<file.csv>' WITH ERRFILE = '<file>';`
Write rejected rows to a file

`COPY <table> TO '<file>' WITH PAGESIZE = <n>;`
Rows per page when exporting

COPY defaults

Option	Default	Meaning
`PAGESIZE`	1000	Rows per page (TO)
`MAXREQUESTS`	6	Token ranges at once (TO)
`INGESTRATE`	100000	Rows per second (FROM)
`MAXBATCHSIZE`	20	Rows per batch (FROM)
`NUMPROCESSES`	16	Worker processes
`HEADER`	false	First line holds names

CONFIG

`~/.cassandra/cqlshrc`
Default config file

`CQL_HISTORY=/dev/null`
Env var: disable history

`cqlsh --credentials=<file> <host>`
Use another credentials file

The credentials file must be owned by you and unreadable by others, or cqlsh refuses it.

RECIPES

Debug a slow query

```
cqlsh <host> -k <keyspace>
TRACING ON
CONSISTENCY LOCAL_QUORUM
SELECT * FROM <table> WHERE
<id> = <value>;
# trace prints after the result
```

Dump a table and reload it

```
COPY <table> TO 'dump.csv' WITH
HEADER = true;
TRUNCATE <table>;
COPY <table> FROM 'dump.csv'
WITH HEADER = true;
```

Script a schema over TLS

```
cqlsh --ssl -u <user> -p
<password> -f schema.cql <host>
```

Save results for later

```
CAPTURE '/tmp/out.txt'
EXPAND ON
SELECT * FROM <table> LIMIT 5;
CAPTURE OFF
```