less Terminal pager

CONCEPTS

> less is a pager: it reads lazily, so huge files open at once and you can scroll back, which a plain cat cannot do.

Input file or pipe
↓ read
Buffer lazy, scrollable
↓ show
Screen keys, search, options

> Keys are case sensitive. Many accept a count first: 10j moves 10 lines, 50% jumps halfway.

MOVING

`Space` / `f`
Forward one screen

`b`
Back one screen

`j` / `Enter`
Forward one line

`k` / `y`
Back one line

`d`
Forward half a screen

`u`
Back half a screen

`g` / `<`
Go to the first line

`G` / `>`
Go to the last line

`<n>g`
Go to line <n>

`<n>%`
Go to <n> percent into the file

SEARCHING

`/<pattern>`
Search forward

SEARCHING (cont.)

`?<pattern>`
Search backward

`n`
Next match

`N`
Previous match

`&<pattern>`
Show only matching lines

FILES AND COMMANDS

`F`
Follow the end, like tail -f

`:n`
Next file

`:p`
Previous file

`-<flag>`
Toggle an option live

`h`
Show help

`q`
Quit

OPTIONS

`less -S <file>`
Chop long lines instead of wrapping

`less -N <file>`
Show line numbers

`less -R`
Pass ANSI colours through

`less -F`
Quit if it fits on one screen

`less -i`
Ignore case when searching

`less +F <file>`
Start in follow mode

`less +/<pattern> <file>`
Start at first match