pgcli Smarter Postgres shell

Connect flags, URI, DSN alias → **Prompt** smart completion → **Result** table format, pager → **Config** ~/.config/pgcli/config

CONCEPTS

pgcli is psql with context-aware completion and syntax colours. By default a query runs on Enter after the closing semicolon; F3 switches to multi-line mode.

Destructive statements (DROP, DELETE, UPDATE without WHERE ...) ask for confirmation; --yes skips it, --warn forces the check.

CONNECT

`pgcli -h <host> -p <port> -U <user> -d <db>`
Connect with explicit options

`pgcli <db>`
Connect to a local database

`pgcli "postgresql://<user>@<host>:<port>/<db>"`
Connect with a URI

`pgcli -W`
Force a password prompt

`pgcli -D <alias>`
Connect via a DSN alias from the config

`pgcli --list-dsn`
List configured DSN aliases

CONNECT (cont.)

`pgcli -l`
List databases and exit

`\c <db>`
Switch database

`\conninfo`
Show connection details

INSPECT

`\l`
List databases

`\dt`
List tables

`\d <table>`
Columns, indexes and constraints

`\d+ <table>`
Same, with sizes and storage

`\dn`
List schemas

`\dv`
List views

`\di`
List indexes

`\df`
List functions

`\du`
List roles

`\dx`
List extensions

RUN SQL

`pgcli -c "<sql>" <db>`
Run a statement and exit

`pgcli -f <file.sql> <db>`
Run a script file and exit

`\i <file>`
Run a file inside pgcli

`\e`
Edit the query in your editor

`\watch <sec>`
Re-run the query every N seconds

`\copy <table> from '<file>' csv header`
Load a CSV file

`\copy (<query>) to '<file>' csv header`
Export a query to CSV

`\h <statement>`
SQL syntax help

`\?`
List all backslash commands

OUTPUT

`\x`
Toggle vertical output

`pgcli --auto-vertical-output`
Vertical only when too wide

`\timing`
Toggle query timing

OUTPUT (cont.)

`\T <format>`
Change the table format

`\o <file>`
Send results to a file

`pgcli -t -c "<sql>" <db>`
Rows only, for scripts

COMPLETION & KEYS

`F2`
Toggle smart completion

`F3`
Toggle multi-line mode

`F4`
Switch Vi and Emacs mode

`F5`
Toggle explain mode

`Tab`
Force completion at the cursor

`Ctrl+Space`
Start or accept completion

`Alt+Enter`
Insert a line break

`Ctrl+p / Ctrl+n`
Previous or next history entry

`Ctrl+r`
Search history backwards

COMPLETION & KEYS (cont.)

`Ctrl+a / Ctrl+e`
Start or end of line

`\refresh`
Reload completion metadata

NAMED QUERIES

`\ns <name> <query>`
Save a named query

`\n`
List named queries

`\n <name> [args]`
Run a named query

CONFIG

`~/.config/pgcli/config`
Main config file

`smart_completion = True`
Context-aware completion

`multi_line = True`
Queries need an explicit ; to end

`table_format = psql`
Default output format

`auto_expand = True`
Expanded only when wide

`destructive_warning = drop, delete`
Statements that ask first