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