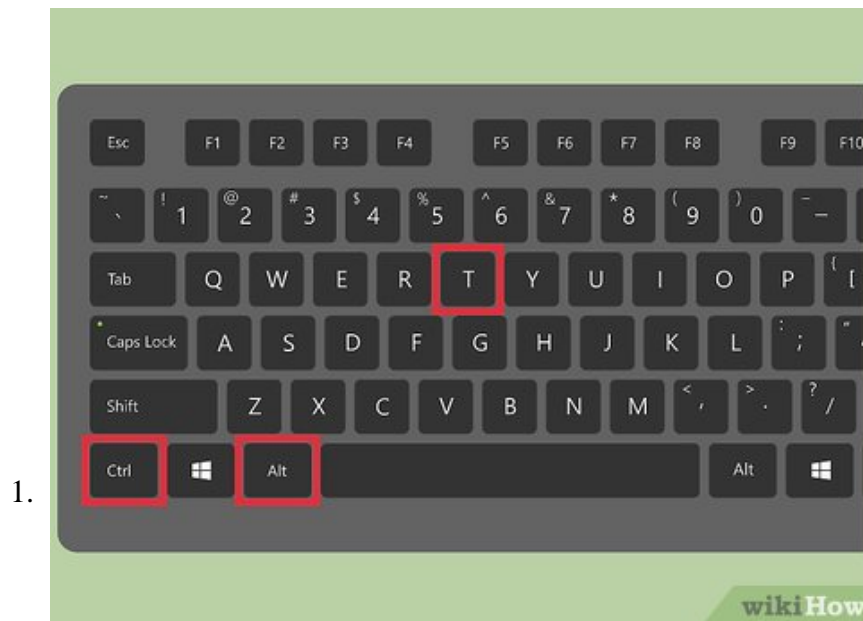


How to Become Root in Ubuntu

To run administrative tasks in Linux, you must have root (also known as superuser) access. Having a separate root account is common in most Linux distributions, but Ubuntu disables root by default. This prevents users from making mistakes...

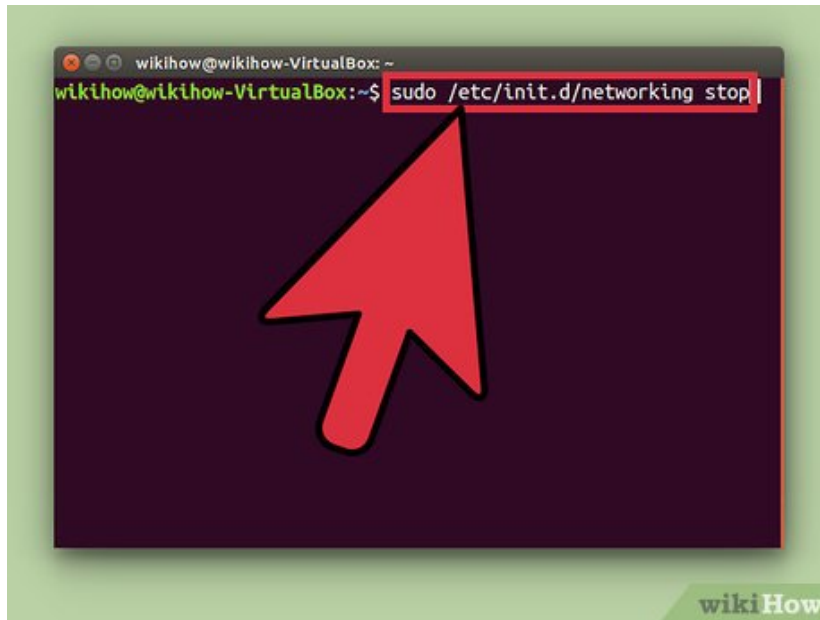
Method 1 of 2:

Running Root Commands with Sudo



Press **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **T** to open a terminal window. Because Ubuntu locks the root account by default, you cannot use `su` to become root as you would in other Linux distributions.^[1] Instead, start your commands with `sudo`.

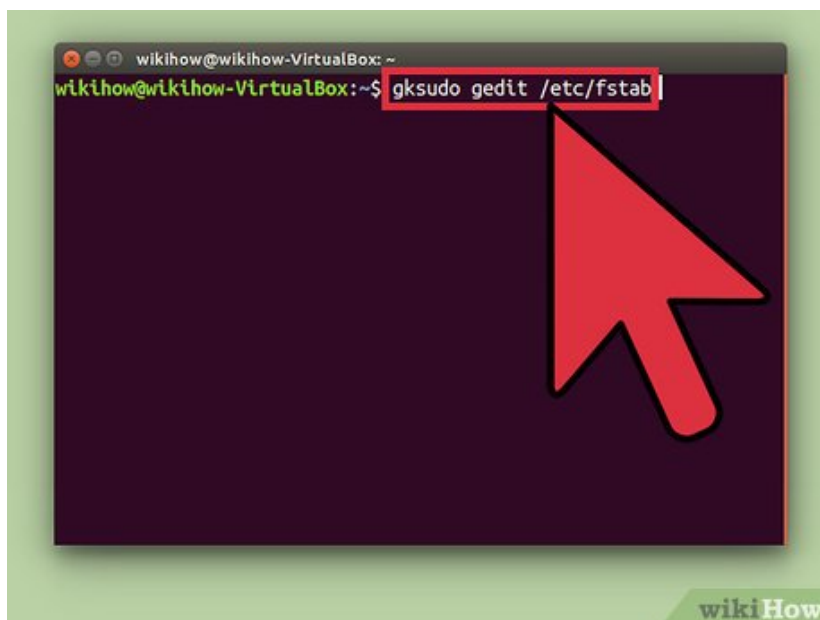
2.



Type **sudo** before the rest of your command. 'Sudo' stands for 'substitute user do.' When you add sudo to the beginning of a command, the command will run as root.

1. For example: `sudo /etc/init.d/networking stop` stops the network service, and `sudo adduser` adds a new user to the system. Both of these tasks require root access.
2. You will be prompted to enter your password before sudo runs the command. Linux stores your password for 15 minutes so you won't have to keep typing it.

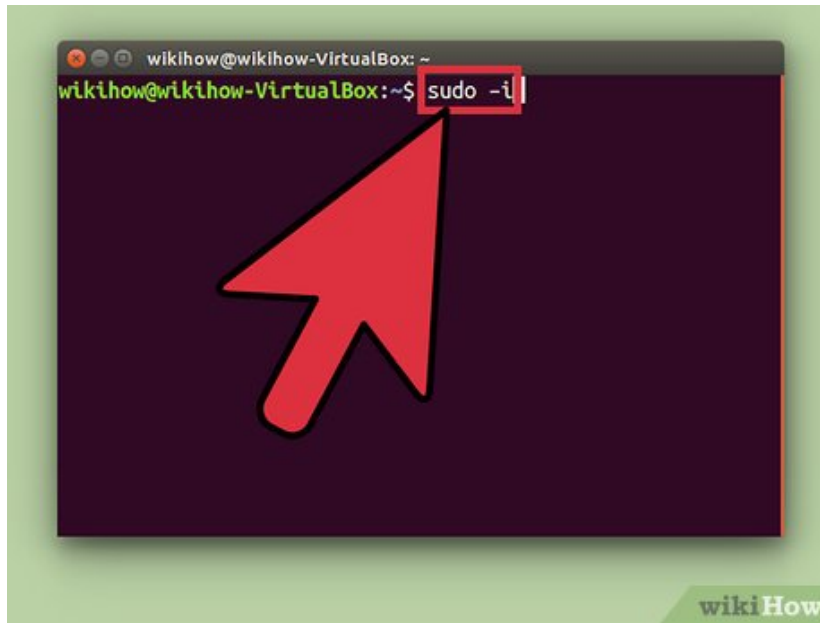
3.



Type **gksudo** before running a command that opens a program with a Graphical User Interface (GUI). For security reasons, Ubuntu does not recommend using 'sudo' to open programs with GUIs.^[2] Instead, type **gksudo** before the command that launches the program.

1. For example: type `gksudo gedit /etc/fstab` to open the "fstab" file in GEdit, an editing program with a GUI.
2. If you're using the KDE Window Manager, use `kdesudo` instead of `gksudo`.

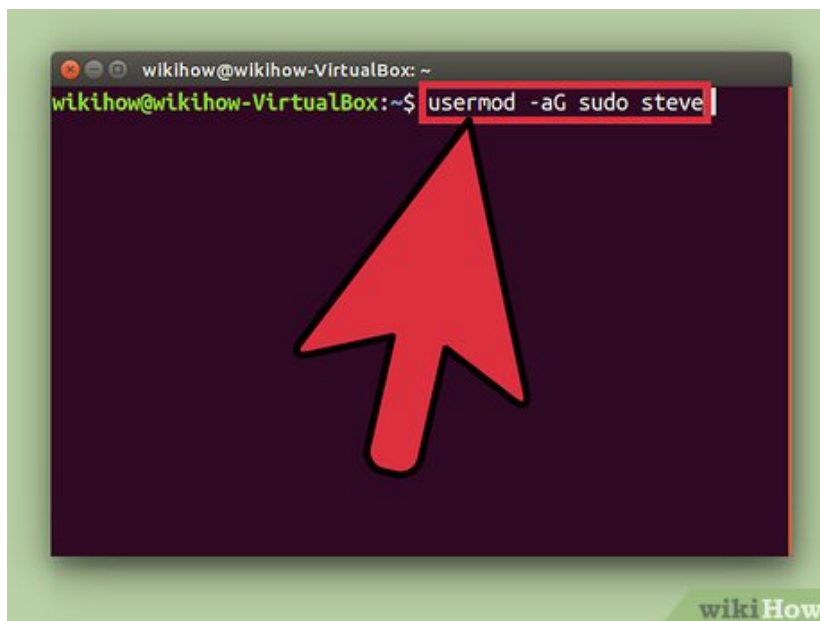
4.



Simulate a root environment. If you are an advanced user who needs access to an actual root shell to run specific scripts, simulate a root shell with `sudo -i`. This command will give you superuser access with root's environment variables.^[3]

1. Enter the command `sudo passwd root`. This will create a password for root, essentially 'enabling' the account. Don't forget this password.
2. Type `sudo -i`. Enter the root password when prompted.
3. The prompt will change from `$` to `#`, indicating you have root access.

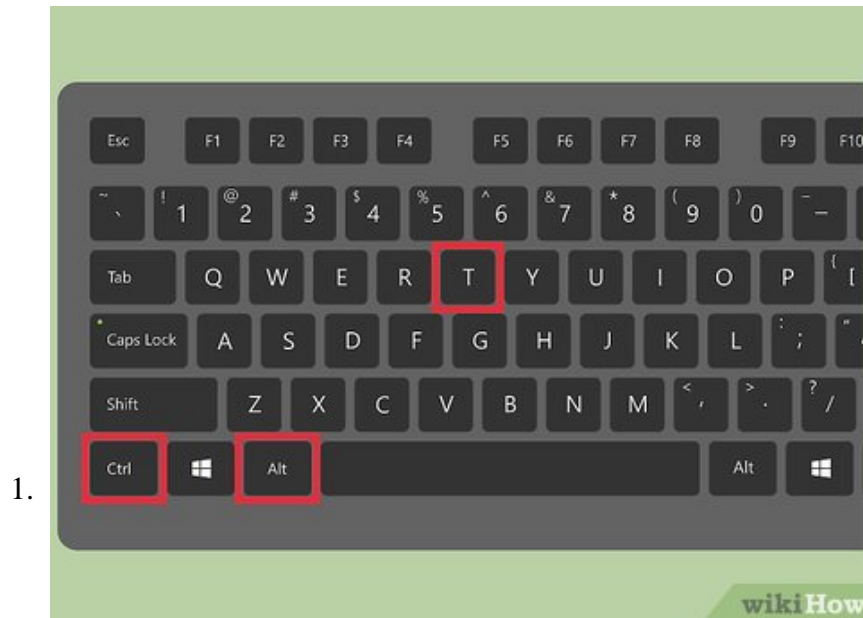
5.



Give `sudo` access to another user. If you are setting up an account for someone who does not currently have root access, you will need to add their username to the sudo group. To do this, type `usermod -aG sudo username` (but replace 'username' with the correct username).^[4]

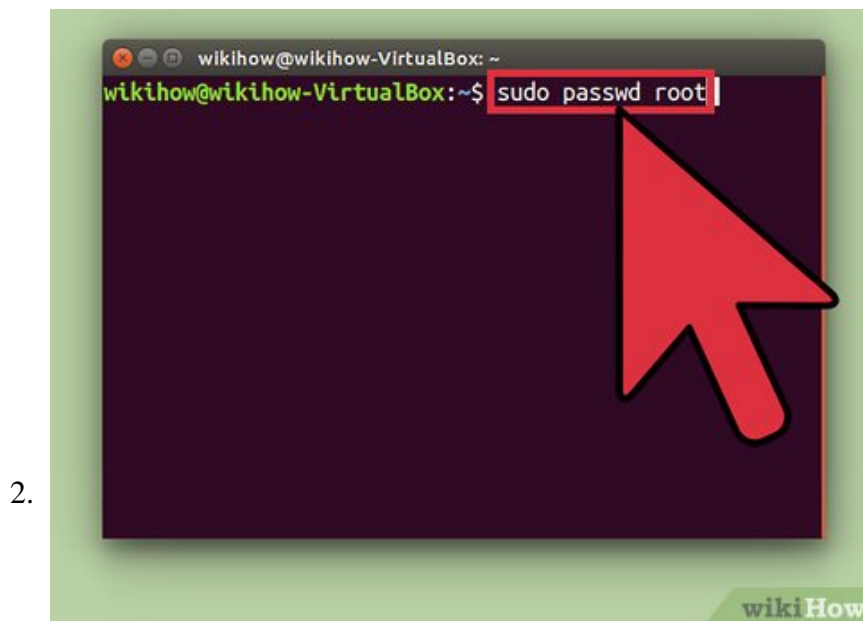
Method 2 of 2:

Enabling the Root User



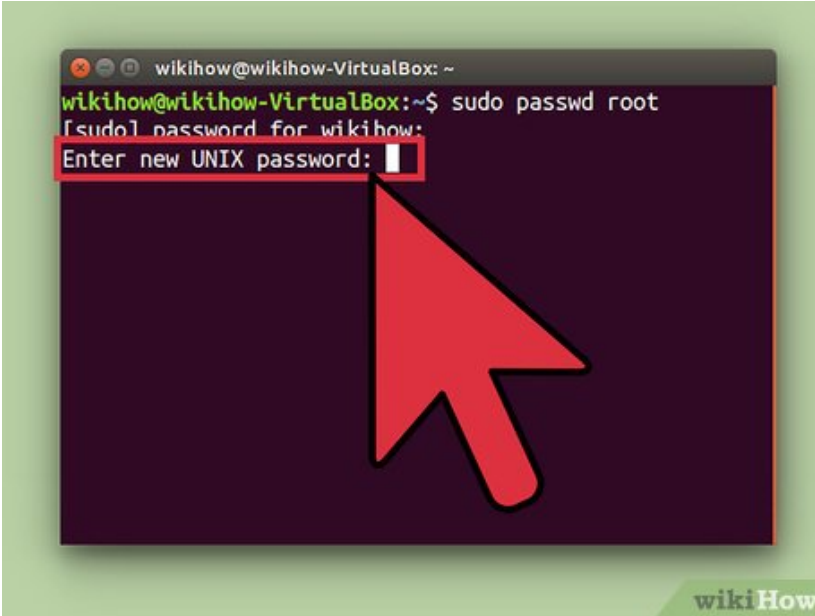
Press **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **T** to open a terminal window. For security purposes (and to avoid damage), the root user account is locked by default. To safely run commands as root, you should use `sudo` or `gksudo` instead. If you absolutely must have a separate root user (if it's required by a program used by your business, or this workstation will only be used by a single user), you can enable the root user with some simple commands.

1. Enabling the root user can put your system at risk and is not recommended by Ubuntu.^[5]



Type **sudo passwd root** and press **Enter**. You will be prompted to set a new password for the root user.^[6] Don't lose this password.

3.




```
wikihow@wikihow-VirtualBox: ~  
wikihow@wikihow-VirtualBox:~$ sudo passwd root  
[sudo] password for wikihow:  
Enter new UNIX password: █
```

A terminal window titled "wikihow@wikihow-VirtualBox: ~" showing the execution of the command "sudo passwd root". The prompt "[sudo] password for wikihow:" has been entered. The next prompt is "Enter new UNIX password:" followed by a cursor and a small white box. A large red arrow points to this input field. The terminal background is dark purple with green text. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Enter a password, then press `Enter`.

4.

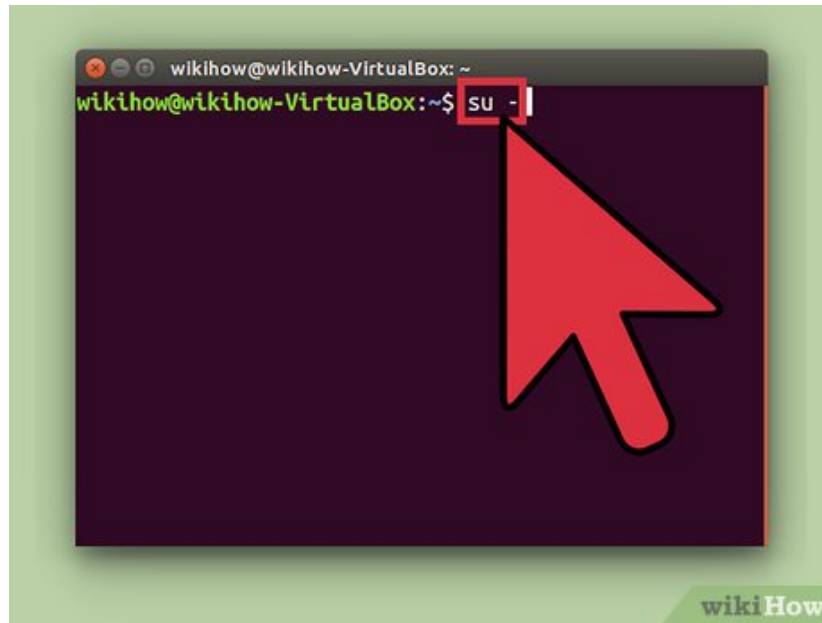


```
wikihow@wikihow-VirtualBox: ~  
wikihow@wikihow-VirtualBox:~$ sudo passwd root  
[sudo] password for wikihow:  
Enter new UNIX password:  
Retype new UNIX password: █
```

A terminal window titled "wikihow@wikihow-VirtualBox: ~" showing the execution of the command "sudo passwd root". The prompt "[sudo] password for wikihow:" has been entered. The next prompt is "Enter new UNIX password:". The following prompt is "Retype new UNIX password:" followed by a cursor and a small white box. A large red arrow points to this input field. The terminal background is dark purple with green text. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Retype the password when prompted, then press `Enter`. The root user should now have a password.

5.



Type `su -` and press `Enter`. Enter the root password when prompted to arrive at the root prompt.

1. To disable the root account, type `sudo passwd -dl root`.^[7]

You finished reading the article "**How to Become Root in Ubuntu**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.