

chown (change file ownership)

This command changes the owner and group of a file. If you only want to change a file's owner, call *chown* like so:

```
chown USER FILE
```

This will make USER the owner of FILE. If you want to change a file's owner and group, use this form of the *chown* command:

```
chown USER:GROUP FILE
```

For security reasons, only root is allowed to change a file's ownership, so you'll have to prefix →[sudo](#) when you call *chown* as a normal user.