11

ANSWERS TO EVEN-NUMBERED EXERCISES

2. What does the **/etc/resolv.conf** file do? What do the **nameserver** lines in this file do?

   The **/etc/resolv.conf** file is the resolver configuration file. It provides access to DNS for Internet address resolution. The **nameserver** lines indicate which systems the local system should query to resolve hostnames into IP addresses, and vice versa.

4. What does the **..** entry in a directory point to? What does this entry point to in the root (/) directory?

   The **..** entry is a link to the parent directory. In the case of the root directory, there is no parent, so the **..** entry is a link to the root directory itself.

6. What is a FIFO? What does FIFO stand for? What is another name for a FIFO? How does a FIFO work?

   A FIFO is a special file, also called a named pipe. You read from and write to the file to read from and write to the pipe. The term FIFO stands for *first in, first out.* The first information you put in one end is the first information that comes out the other end.

8. Without using rm, how can you delete a file? (*Hint:* How do you rename a file?)

   ```
   $ mv file /dev/null
   ```

10. Why should **/var** reside on a separate partition from **/usr**?

    Files in **/var** change often, unlike files in **/usr**. When a system crashes, it is more likely that a filesystem with recently modified files will become corrupt than a stable filesystem. To lessen the chance of the data in **/usr** becoming corrupted when a system crashes, keep **/usr** on a separate partition.

12. How would you mount an ISO image so you could copy files from it without burning it to a CD?

```
$ mount -t -o loop image.iso /mnt/image
```

See "THE LOOP DEVICE" on the mount man page for more information.