

# 10 Kubernetes Aliases for the 1% DevOps Engineer

Stop fighting with verbose commands. Here is my personal `.bashrc` toolkit.



BHANU TEJA  
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We all know `kubectl` is powerful, but it is also incredibly verbose.

How many times a day do you type `-n my-namespace`?

How many times do you copy a base64 secret string, open a new tab, and decode it?

These micro-frictions add up.

Today, I'm sharing my personal list of 10 aliases that combine `kubectl` with `fzf` (fuzzy finder) to turn manual typing into instant, interactive workflows.

## Prerequisites

To use these, you need two standard tools installed on your machine:

1. **fzf**: The command-line fuzzy finder (essential for the interactive selection).
2. **jq**: For processing JSON output.

## 1. Instant Secret Decoder

**Problem:** Manually copying base64 strings and running `base64 -d` is slow and error-prone.

**Solution:** This alias pipes the selected secret directly into `jq` for instant decoding of all keys at once.

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## 2. The Context Jumper

**Problem:** `kubectl config use-context` requires typing long, complex context names (e.g., `gke_project_zone_cluster`).

**Solution:** Fuzzy search your list of contexts. Essential when juggling Prod, Staging, and Dev clusters daily.

```
alias kctx='kubectl config get-contexts -o name | fzf | xargs kubectl
config use-context'
```

## 3. The “Namespace Teleport”

**Problem:** Typing `-n <namespace>` on every command is a productivity killer.

**Solution:** Instantly switch your active namespace. Unlike external tools like `kubens`, this relies purely on native `kubectl` commands piped to `fzf`.

```
alias kns='kubectl get ns -o name | fzf | cut -d/ -f2 | xargs kubectl
config set-context --current --namespace'
```

## 4. The “Pod Shell” (Exec made easy)

**Problem:** Getting a shell requires: `get pods`, copy name, `exec -it <name> -- /bin/bash`.

**Solution:** One command to select and enter. *Note: If you use Alpine images often, change `/bin/bash` to `/bin/sh`.*

```
alias ksh='kubectl get pods | fzf | awk "{print \$1}" | xargs -I {}
kubectl exec -it {} -- /bin/bash'
```

## 5. The “Garbage Collector”

**Problem:** Failed jobs and evicted pods clutter your `get pods` output, making it hard to see actual issues.

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```
alias kclean='kubectl get pods --all-namespaces | grep -E "(Evicted|Error)" | awk "{print \"-n \" \$1 \" \" \$2}" | xargs -t -L 1 kubectl delete pod'
```

## 6. The “Log Tailer” (Current)

**Problem:** Debugging a specific microservice with precise pod name matching.

**Solution:** Interactively pick the pod. The -t flag so you can watch logs stream in real-time.

```
alias klogs='kubectl get pods | fzf | awk '{print $1}' | xargs kubectl logs -f'
```

## 7. The “Deployment Bounce

**Problem:** You updated a ConfigMap or Secret and it up. Or you need to pull the :latest image tag.

**Solution:** Triggers a rolling restart of the deployment without needing to edit the YAML or scale down/up manually.

```
alias kbounce='kubectl get deployments | fzf | awk "{print \$1}" | xargs kubectl rollout restart deployment'
```

## 8. The “Resource Hog Hunter”

**Problem:** Cluster performance is degrading, but you don’t know who the culprit is.

**Solution:** Immediately sorts pods by CPU usage. Great for quick triage before diving into Prometheus/Grafana.

```
alias ktop='kubectl top pods --sort-by=cpu | sort -r | head -15'
```



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**Solution:** Scans the current namespace and outputs a deduplicated, sorted list of every container image version currently running.

```
alias kimg='kubectl get pods -o jsonpath="{.items[*].spec.containers[*].image}" | tr -s "[[:space:]]" "\n" | sort | uniq'
```

## 10. The “Stuck Pod Killer”

**Problem:** A pod is stuck in Terminating because of a hung volume mount or finalizer issue.

**Solution:** The nuclear option. It forces deletion immediately. *Warning: Use carefully on StatefulSets or database pods to avoid data corruption.*

```
alias kforce='kubectl get pods | fzf | awk "{print \$1}" | xargs -I {} kubectl delete pod {} --grace-period=0 --force'
```

### How to use this?

1. Copy these aliases.
2. Paste them into your ~/.zshrc or ~/.bashrc file.
3. Run source ~/.zshrc (or bashrc) to load them.

**Which one of these will save you the most time? Let me know in the comments!**

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