

What is vi?

It is a text editor. Vi stand for visual editor

vim editor is nothing vi improved editor

How vi works?

It works in three modes

1. command mode (default)

In command we can do all cursor movements, cut, copy and paste kind of operations

2. insert mode

In insert you type in the text.

3. Ex (expert)Mode

In expert we run expert mode commands. Doing exit from the editor is one task of ex mode commands.

How to switch between modes?

Default mode in which you land in is command mode.

In command we can press following keys to goto insert mode

i,a, I,A, o,O

i : will insert before the cursor position

a: will insert after the cursor position

I: will insert before the current line

A: will insert after the current line

o: will create a blank line below current line and goto insert mode

O: will create a blank line above current line and goto insert mode

to switch back to command mode from insert mode press ESC key

to goto ex mode press “:” key to goto Ex-Mode from command mode

to switch back from Ex-Mode to command press ESC two times.

In command mode press ESC +u is equal to undo

if you press Ctrl + r is redo in command mode

What we can do in command mode?

We can do all sorts of cursor movement.

1. cursor movement is char oriented

Cursor in command mode

1. Char oriented

h is = left arrow

j is = down arrow

k is = up arrow

l is = right arrow

2. Word oriented (all special char are treated as single word)

w is word ahead

b is back a word

e is word ahead but on the last char of the word

3. Sentence Oriented (it is some group of chars separated with space and then it end with a full stop)

(moves cursor to the start of sentence

) moves the cursor to the end of the sentence

4. paragraph oriented (group consecutive lines which are separated with blank lines)

{ moves cursor to the start of paragraph

} moves cursor to the end of paragraph

5. Line Oriented (line end with an enter or carriage return key)

'0' zero will move your cursor to start of the line

'\$' dollar will move the cursor to the end of the line

6. Screen Oriented movement

H = is highest line on the screen

M = is middle line on the screen

L = is lowest line on the screen

7. File oriented movement

gg = will take you to first line of the file

G = will take you to last line of the file

25gg or 10G will take you to that particular line number

% moves the cursor to that particular line number with percent calculation

To change, delete and yank in vi

Command executed for	Change(cut)	Delete(cut)	Yank(copy)
Line	cc	dd	yy
Letter	cl	dl	yl
Word	cw	dw	yw
Sentence starting	c(d(y(
Sentence ending	c)	d)	y)
Paragraph starting	c{	d{	y{
Paragraph ending	c}	d}	y}

To paste in vi

Press **p** or **P**

Commands table of Ex - Mode in vi

	write(Save)	Do not Write (Save)
Quit	:wq, :wq!	:q, :q!
Do not Quit	:w, :w!	:e!

Note : use ! sign for forcible implementation of above commands.