

vi Editor Family Essential Commands

Entering and Leaving:

vi *files...* Edit *files* in *visual mode*
Prefer **vim** or **gvim** to **vi** if available!

ZZ Write changes and quit editor

Moving the cursor:

Movement commands will not go beyond last line of file or last character of line.

h j k l Left, down, up, right

0 ^ \$ Column 0, start, end of line

w W Forward small, large **word**

b B **Back** small, large **word**

() **Sentence** start, next

{ } **Paragraph** start, next

/ ? **Search** forwards, backwards

n N **Next** search forwards, backwards

Inserting new text:

i I **Insert** before character, line

a A **Append** after character, line

o O **Open** new line below, above

Insert mode commands:

Function key commands in *insert mode* supported by newer versions of vi.

ESC Return to *command mode*

BACKSPACE Delete left (text may still show)

Cross-product Commands:

Follow with movement command, or double to affect line(s).

d **Delete** (cut) to copy buffer

y **Yank** (copy) to copy buffer

c **Change** (combines delete and insert)

< **Shift** indentation **left**

> **Shift** indentation **right**

Repeating, redoing and undoing:

Most commands can be repeated by prefacing them with a repeat count.

. **Do again** last buffer-changing command.

u **Undo** last buffer-changing command

Ctrl-R **Redo** last **undo** (*vim and gvim only*)

p P **Paste** after, before current character or line

Ex command mode:

: issue single **ex** command from *visual mode*

Q Quit *visual mode* for *ex mode*

next **Next** file

quit! **Quit** the editor

write file **Write** buffer to *file*

read file **Read** *file* into buffer

visual Enter *visual mode* from *ex mode*

Read and write default to original file.

Use **!** at end of command name to force data loss.

Miscellaneous commands:

J **Join** current line with next one

x **x out** character (same as **dl**)

rC **Replace** current character with *C*

lineG **Goto** *line* number or end-of-file