

vi Editor Commands

General Startup

To use vi: `vi filename`

To exit vi and save changes: `ZZ` or `:wq`

To exit vi without saving changes: `:q!`

To enter vi command mode: `[esc]`

Counts

A number preceding any vi command tells vi to repeat that command that many times.

Cursor Movement

`h` move left (backspace)

`j` move down

`k` move up

`l` move right (spacebar)

`[return]` move to the beginning of the next line

`$` last column on the current line

`0` move cursor to the first column on the current line

`^` move cursor to first nonblank column on the current line

`w` move to the beginning of the next word or punctuation mark

`W` move past the next space

b	move to the beginning of the previous word or punctuation mark
B	move to the beginning of the previous word, ignores punctuation
e	end of next word or punctuation mark
E	end of next word, ignoring punctuation
{	Previous paragraph
}	Next paragraph
H	move cursor to the top of the screen
M	move cursor to the middle of the screen
L	move cursor to the bottom of the screen

Screen Movement

G	move to the last line in the file
xG	move to line x

Inserting

r	replace character under cursor with next character typed
R	keep replacing character until <i>[esc]</i> is hit
i	insert before cursor
a	append after cursor
A	append at end of line
O	open line above cursor and enter append mode

Deleting

x	delete character under cursor
dd	delete line under cursor
dw	delete word under cursor
db	delete word before cursor

Copying Code

yy (yank) 'copies' line which may then be put by the p(put) command. Precede with a count for multiple lines.

Put Command

brings back previous deletion or yank of lines, words, or characters

P	bring back before cursor
p	bring back after cursor