

vi Editor "Cheat Sheet"

Invoking vi: `vi filename`

Format of vi commands: `[count][command]` (count repeats the effect of the command)

Command mode versus input mode

Vi starts in command mode. The positioning commands operate only while vi is in command mode. You switch vi to input mode by entering any one of several vi input commands. (See next section.) Once in input mode, any character you type is taken to be text and is added to the file. You cannot execute any commands until you exit input mode. To exit input mode, press the escape (**Esc**) key.

Input commands (end with Esc)

a	Append after cursor
i	Insert before cursor
o	Open line below
O	Open line above
:r <i>file</i>	Insert <i>file</i> after current line

Any of these commands leaves vi in input mode until you press **Esc**. Pressing the **RETURN** key will not take you out of input mode.

Change commands (Input mode)

cw	Change word (Esc)
cc	Change line (Esc) - blanks line
c\$	Change to end of line
rc	Replace character with <i>c</i>
R	Replace (Esc) - typeover
s	Substitute (Esc) - 1 char with string
S	Substitute (Esc) - Rest of line with text
.	Repeat last change

Changes during insert mode

<ctrl>h	Back one character
<ctrl>w	Back one word
<ctrl>u	Back to beginning of insert

File management commands

:w <i>name</i>	Write edit buffer to file <i>name</i>
:wq	Write to file and quit
:q!	Quit without saving changes
ZZ	Same as :wq
:sh	Execute shell commands (<ctrl>d)

Window motions

<ctrl>d	Scroll down (half a screen)
<ctrl>u	Scroll up (half a screen)
<ctrl>f	Page forward
<ctrl>b	Page backward
/string	Search forward
?string	Search backward
<ctrl>l	Redraw screen
<ctrl>g	Display current line number and file information
n	Repeat search
N	Repeat search reverse
G	Go to last line
nG	Go to line <i>n</i>
:n	Go to line <i>n</i>
z<CR>	Reposition window: cursor at top
z.	Reposition window: cursor in middle
z-	Reposition window: cursor at bottom

Cursor motions

H	Upper left corner (home)
M	Middle line
L	Lower left corner
h	Back a character
j	Down a line
k	Up a line
^	Beginning of line
\$	End of line
l	Forward a character
w	One word forward
b	Back one word
fc	Find <i>c</i>
;	Repeat find (find next <i>c</i>)