

## Essential Vim Commands

The following table lists useful *vim* commands for the beginner.

Movement Commands		
<b>j</b>	<i>down line</i>	move down a line, also <b>k</b> (up), <b>h</b> (left), <b>l</b> (right)
<b>Ctl-d</b>	<i>down half-screen</i>	move down 1/2 screenful, also <b>Ctl-u</b> (up)
<b>Ctl-f</b>	<i>down full-screen</i>	move down one screenful, also <b>Ctl-b</b> (up)
<b>G</b>	<i>bottom</i>	move to the last line in the file, also <b>gg</b> (first line)
<b>:15</b>	<i>go to line</i>	[for example] go to line 15
<b>%</b>	<i>jump to match</i>	jumps to matching parenthesis, brace, or bracket
Insertion		
<b>i</b>	<i>insert</i>	starts insert mode before the current character
<b>I</b>	<i>big insert</i>	starts insert mode at the beginning of the current line
<b>a</b>	<i>append</i>	starts insert mode after the current character
<b>A</b>	<i>big append</i>	starts insert mode after the last character in the current line
<b>o</b>	<i>open line</i>	adds a blank line after current line and starts insert mode
<b>O</b>	<i>open line before</i>	adds a blank line before current line and starts insert mode
Removals		
<b>x</b>	<i>delete char</i>	deletes current character
<b>dw</b>	<i>delete word</i>	deletes to end-of-word
<b>dd</b>	<i>big delete</i>	deletes current line
<b>D</b>	<i>big delete</i>	deletes to end of line
Replacements		
<b>~</b>	<i>(un)capitalize</i>	(un)capitalizes the current character and advances
<b>rf</b>	<i>replace char</i>	[for example] replaces current character with <b>f</b>
<b>R</b>	<i>replace characters</i>	like <b>i</b> but with original characters replaced
<b>cw</b>	<i>change word</i>	like <b>dw</b> , but starts insert mode
<b>C</b>	<i>big change</i>	like <b>D</b> , but starts insert mode
<b>s</b>	<i>substitute char</i>	like <b>x</b> , but starts insert mode
Copying and Pasting		
<b>yw</b>	<i>yank word</i>	copy the current word
<b>yy</b>	<i>yank line</i>	copy the current line
<b>p</b>	<i>put after</i>	put the last copy or deletion after the current character/line
<b>P</b>	<i>put before</i>	put the last copy or deletion before the current character/line
<b>mq</b>	<i>mark a line</i>	[for example] mark the current line, naming it <b>q</b>
<b>y'q</b>	<i>yank to mark</i>	[for example] copy from the current line to the line marked <b>q</b>
<b>d'q</b>	<i>delete to mark</i>	[for example] like <b>y'q</b> but deletes
Searching		
<b>/xyz</b>	<i>search</i>	[for example] search for the string <b>xyz</b> , also <b>?</b> for searching backwards
<b>/\&lt;xy</b>	<i>search word</i>	[for example] search for word beginning with <b>xy</b>
<b>/xy\&gt;</b>	<i>search word</i>	[for example] search for word ending with <b>xy</b>
<b>n</b>	<i>repeat search</i>	find next occurrence, also <b>N</b> to find previous
<b>:%s/ab/xy/g</b>	<i>global replace</i>	[for example] replace each occurrence of <b>ab</b> with <b>xy</b>
<b>:%s/ab/xy/</b>	<i>global replace</i>	[for example] replace first occurrence of <b>ab</b> with <b>xy</b> on each line
Miscellaneous		
<b>&lt;&lt;</b>	<i>shift left</i>	shift current line to the left
<b>&gt;&gt;</b>	<i>shift right</i>	shift current line to the right
<b>u</b>	<i>undo</i>	undo the last command ( <b>uu</b> undoes last two command, etc)
<b>Ctl-r</b>	<i>redo</i>	redo the last undo
<b>.</b>	<i>repeat command</i>	repeat the last edit command [THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMAND!]