Basic commands

Commands that switch the editor to insert mode

| **Vim Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| a | append: it moves the cursor one position to the right before switching to insert mode |
| i | insert |
| o | insert a blank line under the current cursor position and move the cursor to that line. |

Moving through the text

Moving through the text is usually possible with the arrow keys. If not, use:

| **Vim Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| h | move the cursor one character to the left. |
| j | move the cursor down one line. |
| k | move the cursor up one line. |
| l | move the cursor one character to the right. |
| 0 | move the cursor to the beginning of the line. |
| $ | move the cursor to the end of the line. |
| w | move forward one word. |
| b | move backward one word. |
| G | move to the end of the file. |
| gg | move to the beginning of the file. |

Basic operations

| **Vim Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| ndd | delete n lines starting from the current cursor position. |
| ndw | delete n words at the right side of the cursor. |
| x | delete the character on which the cursor is positioned |
| :n | move to line n of the file. |
| u | undo the last operation. |
| Ctrl-r | redo the last undo. |
| :w | save (write) the file |
| :q | exit the editor. |
| :q! | force the exit when you want to quit a file containing unsaved changes. |
| :wq | save and exit |
| :w newfile | will save the text to newfile. |
| :wq! | override read-only permission (if you have the permission to override permissions, for instance when you are using the root account. |
| :recover | will recover a file after an unexpected interruption. |

Searching And Replacing

| **Vim Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| /text | search the text in the file and position the cursor on the first match below its position. |
| n | move the cursor to the next instance of the text from the last search. This will wrap to the beginning of the document. |
| N | move the cursor to the previous instance of the text from the last search. |
| ?text | search for text in the document, going backward. |
| :%s/text/replacement text/g | search through the entire document for text and replace it with the replacement text. |
| :%s/text/replacement text/gc | search through the entire document and confirm before replacing text. |

Copying And Pasting

| **Vim Command** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| v | highlight one character at a time. |
| V | highlight one line at a time. |
| Ctrl-v | highlight by columns. |
| y | yank text into the copy buffer. |
| p | paste text after the current line. |
| P | paste text on the current line. |
| np | paste it n times. |