

Vim Command Summary

<https://github.com/praful/vim-cheatsheet> Updated: 2019/04/10

General pattern of commands: [n] operator [m] movement

Movement Commands

Character	
h, j, k, l	Left, down, up, right (3j moves down 3 lines)
Text	
w, W, b, B	Forward, backward by word/WORD (lowercase w, b: letters, numbers, underscore make up word; uppercase W, B: separator is whitespace)
e, E	End of word/WORD
ge, gE	End of previous word/WORD
), (Beginning of next, previous sentence
}, {	Beginning of next, previous paragraph
]], [[Beginning of next, previous section (or function in C, Java, etc)
%	Move to matching brace, paren, etc
Line	
0, \$	First, last position of current line
^	First character of current line (ignore spaces)
+, -	First character of next, previous line
n	Column n of current line
H, M, L	Top / middle / last line of screen
nH	n (number) of lines after top line
nL	n (number) of lines before last line
gm	middle of line
Screens	
CTRL-F, CTRL-B	Scroll forward, backward one screen
CTRL-D, CTRL-U	Scroll down, up one-half screen
CTRL-E, CTRL-Y	Scroll line up, down
z <Enter> or zt	Reposition line with cursor: to top of screen
z. or zz	Reposition line with cursor: to middle of screen
z- or zb	Reposition line with cursor: to bottom of screen
CTRL-L	Redraw screen (without scrolling)
%	Smart range: highlight next block
Searches	
/pattern	Search forward for pattern
?pattern	Search backward for pattern
n, N	Repeat last search in same, opposite direction
/, ?	Repeat previous search forward, backward
fx	Search forward for character x in current line
Fx	Search backward for character x in current line
tx	Search forward for character before x in current line
Tx	Search backward for character after x in current line
, ,	Repeat previous current-line search forward / backward

*, #	Move forward/back to string matching the one under cursor. Precede by g for embedded match.
[i, [I	(lower/uppercase i) In status bar, show first/all lines containing word under cursor
Line number	
CTRL-G	Display current line number
nG	Move to line number n
G	Move to last line in file
:n	Move to line number n
Bookmarks	
mx	Bookmark current position as x (uppercase mark eg mX set global mark, ie file and location)
`x (back tick)	Move cursor to x
'x (apostrophe)	Move to start of line containing x
`` (2 back ticks)	Return to position before most recent jump
'' (2 apostrophes)	Like preceding, but return to start of line
`. (back tick period)	Move to last change
`[, `[Go to start, end of previously operated text
CTRL-O, CTRL-I	Move backwards and forwards in jumplist. See :help jumplist
g; and g,	Move backwards and forwards in changelist. See :help changelist
:marks	List active marks
:jumps	List jumps
:reg x	Show registers or register x

Editing Commands

Select	
v, V, CTRL-V	Select character / line / block (visual mode)
gv	Reselect previous selection
o	Exchange cursor position between start/end of selection
vaw, vas, vap, vab, vaB	Select a word / a sentence / a paragraph / a () block / a {} block. Can use other verbs, eg delete, yank to act on object. Also i instead of a acts inside object (a acts around)
Insert	
i, a	Insert text before, after cursor
I, A	Insert text at beginning, end of line
o, O	Open new line for text below / above cursor
Change	
r, R	Change character / overwrite characters
c{motion}, cw, cc, 2cw, cG, caw	Begin change / change word / line (stay in insert mode) / change next two words / change to end of file / change word (when in middle)
C	Change to end of line
C%	Change text in next group
R	Type over characters
s, S	Delete character (=c) / delete line and substitute text
gu, gU{motion}	Lowercase / uppercase

~	Toggle case and move right.
g~w, guw, gUw	Switch case of word / lowercase word / uppercase word
CTRL-A, CTRL-X	Increment / decrement number under cursor
.	(period) Repeat last edit command
u, CTRL-R, U	Undo / redo / restore current line
j , gJ	Join two lines / join without space
Copy (yank), paste, delete	
yw, y\$, :%y	Yank (copy) word / line / buffer
yy, 5yy	Yank current line / next five lines
"ayy	Yank current line into named buffer a
y"x	Yank from mark x to cursor
p, P	Put yanked text after / before cursor
]p , [p	Like p, P with indent adjusted
gp , gP	Like p, P leaving cursor after new text
"aP	Put text from buffer a before cursor
"np	Put text from delete buffer number n after cursor (for last nine deletions)
x	Delete character
X	Delete character before cursor
dw, dd, dfS, d^, d/pat, dn, dL, dG	Delete word / line / upto S (c and d both cut but c stays in insert mode) / to beginning / to pattern / to next pattern / to end screen / to end file. 10dd deletes 10 lines. dwwP transposes two words.
D	Delete to end of line
di>	Delete inner block delimited by >
d"x	Del from mark x to cursor
Insert mode	
CTRL-R"	Paste last yank/delete. Instead of ", use % (filename), + (clipboard)
CTRL-A	Repeat last insertion
CTRL-D, CTRL-T	Shift line left/right to previous shift width
CTRL-E	Insert character found just below cursor
CTRL-H	Delete prev char (=backspace)
CTRL-I	Insert a tab
CTRL-K	Begin insertion of multi-stroke char
CTRL-N, CTRL-P	Insert next/previous completion of the pattern to the left of the cursor
CTRL-O command	Execute one command eg dw
CTRL-X + CTRL-L	Show list of completions for current line
CTRL-X + CTRL-F	Filename completion
CTRL-U	Delete from cursor to start of line
CTRL-V	Insert next char verbatim
CTRL-W	Delete prev word
CTRL-Y	Insert char found just above cursor
CTRL-[End insert mode (=ESC)

Other Commands

Command line mode	
CTRL-B, CTRL-E	Beginning/end of line
CTRL-F	Open command history in new buffer (like q: in normal mode). Use CTRL-C to paste line in history or press <i>Enter</i> to run command.
CTRL-N, CTRL-P	Next/previous command in history
CTRL-H, CTRL-R, CTRL-U, CTRL-W	As insert mode
CTRL-V	Insert next non-digit literally. You can enter funky keys by pressing ctrl-v first, and then the keystroke. This is most useful in help, eg type :help ^v^t to get help for the keystroke ctrl-t. For this, though, you can also just type :help ctrl-t.
text UP-ARROW or text DOWN-ARROW	Searches history for previously entered commands starting with text
Shell and Shell Filtering	
:r !command	Read in output from <i>command</i> after current line
:!command	Run <i>command</i> , then return
!{motion}command	Send the text covered by <i>motion</i> to Unix <i>command</i> ; replace with output
:n,m!command	Send lines <i>n-m</i> to <i>command</i> ; replace with output
num!!command	Send <i>num</i> lines Unix <i>command</i> ; replace with output
:!!	Repeat last system command
!!command	Pass current line only through <i>command</i>
!}command	Pass area from current line through end of paragraph through <i>command</i>
!Gcommand	Pass area from current line through end of file through <i>command</i>
:%!command	Pass the entire current buffer through <i>command</i>
Code Reformatting	
=G	Indented formatting
%!astyle or %!indent	Linux reformatting programs
gq{motion}	Re-do line wrapping intelligently
gqq	Rewrap current line
gqj	Rewrap current and following line
gq}	Rewrap from current line to end of paragraph
Buffers, Tabs, Window commands	
:bnext, :bprev, :bdelete	Next, previous, delete buffer
:sp file	Split current window horizontally or vertically. With <i>file</i> , edit that file in the new window.
:vsp file	
:new, CTRL-W n	Open a new windows
:tabnew	Open a new tab
:new file	Open <i>file</i> in new window
:clo, CTRL-W c	Close current window
:on, CTRL+W o	Make current window the only visible one
:qa	Close all buffers and exit

CTRL-W j, k	Move cursor to next/previous window
CTRL-W h, l, t, b	Move cursor to left/right/top/bottom window
CTRL-W K, B, H, L	Move current window top/bottom/far left/far right
CTRL+W f CTRL+W gf	Open file at cursor in new windows / tab
CTRL+W r, R	Rotate windows down/up
CTRL+W +, -	Increase/decrease current window size
CTRL+W =	Make all windows the same height
Miscellaneous commands and options	
:sort u / n	Sort, remove duplicates / Sort by number
:sh	Start a shell
:so %	Source current file, eg vimrc after changes
:bufdo command	Execute command on all buffers eg command <i>bdelete</i> closes all open buffers
:set list	Display tabs and eol character
:options	Display help for options and show current values (:set all dumps settings)
:set ft=html	Set filetype to html (use any ext.)
:helptags ~/\vimfiles/doc	Install help file
:verbose map key	Shows where <i>key</i> was mapped
:verb set str	Shows where <i>str</i> was set
:let g: :let v:	Show global/local variables
:set [no]spell	Disable/enable spellchecking
z=,]s,[s, zg,zw	Suggest corrections, next/prev spelling error, add/remove word to exception list
:set path=path	Search path for files
:sh	Start shell
:noh	remove highlight on highlighted text
CTRL-G	Print status line
qx, @x	Record macro to x, run x (precede by n to run n times, eg 5@x).
<, >	Shift text described by following motion command left/right by one shift width eg <} shifts paragraph
<<, >>	Shift line left/right one shift width; 3>> shifts three lines
:1,\$> :1,\$<	Move entire file 1 shiftwidth to the right / left
:%s/^/ /g	Insert any number of spaces at the beginning of each line in the entire file. Press the space bar the desired number of times.
:%norm jdd	Delete every other line (example of using normal mode command on command line; powerful!).
:20>>	Moves next 20 lines over 1 shift width.
K	Look up word under cursor in help
q:	Command history
:mess	Show messages
CTRL-X CTRL-O/K/S	Complete from omni/dictionary/spelling
:tab help index	Open help in new tab for <i>index</i> (or whatever)
ex commands	
:s/old/new/g	Substitute in current line

:%s/old/new/g	Substitute in current file
:.+1,\$s/old/new/g	Substitute in all lines after current. Can use line numbers (eg 3,45s/...) and marks (eg 'a,'bs/...)
:^,.s/old/new/g	Substitute from start of file to cursor
\v	Escapes regex Eg :%s/\(good\ nice\)\/awesome/g can be written as %s/\v(good nice)\/awesome/g
:&	Repeat last substitute command
:d	Delete lines
:m	Move lines, eg :30,60m0 (\$ to move to end)
:co or :t	Copy lines, eg :5,10t105
:/,/pattern/co\$	Copy from current line through line containing <i>pattern</i> to end of file
:d	Delete lines, eg 3,10d
:g[!]/pat/cmd	Execute <i>cmd</i> on all lines containing <i>pat</i> . Use ! for all lines not containing pattern. eg g/Unix/p prints all lines containing Unix; g/Name:/s/tom/Tom/ change "tom" to "Tom" on all lines containing "Name:". :v is the same as :g!. See reference 1 for examples.
:center	Centre line

File Commands

ZZ or :x or :wq	Write (save) and quit file
:w	Write (save) file
:w!	Write (save) file (overriding protection)
:30,60w newfile	Write from line 30 through line 60 as <i>newfile</i>
:30,60w>>file	Write from line 30 through line 60 and append to file
:w !sudo tee %	Write file using sudo
:q	Quit file
:q!	Quit file (overriding protection)
Q	Quit vi and invoke ex
:e file	Edit <i>file</i>
:n	Edit next file
:e!	Return to version of current file at time of last write (save)
:e#	Edit alternate file
%	Current filename
#	Alternate filename
:r file	Read in contents of file after cursor
:e .	Explore dir. Can change dot to path.
:e#	Returns to previous window
gf	Open file at cursor at same window

Links

- Best of Vim tips: <http://zzapper.co.uk/vimtips.html>
- The power and joy of Vim. Derek Wyatt: <https://vimeo.com/15443936>