



Commands for vi

Commands Used to Start, Exit, Read and Write Files in vi

| Command | Usage |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>vi myfile</code> | Start the vi editor and edit the myfile file |
| <code>vi -r myfile</code> | Start vi and edit myfile in recovery mode from a system crash |
| <code>:r file2<ret></code> | Read in file2 and insert at current position |
| <code>:w<ret></code> | Write to the file |
| <code>:w myfile<ret></code> | Write out the file to myfile |
| <code>:w! file2<ret></code> | Overwrite file2 |
| <code>:x<ret></code> or <code>:wq<ret></code> | Exit vi and write out modified file |
| <code>:q<ret></code> | Quit vi |
| <code>:q!<ret></code> | Quit vi even though modifications have not been saved |

Keystrokes Used When Changing Cursor Position in vi

| Keys | Usage |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| arrow keys | To move up, down, left and right |
| j or <ret> | To move one line down |
| k | To move one line up |
| h or Backspace | To move one character left |
| l or Space | To move one character right |
| 0 | To move to beginning of line |
| \$ | To move to end of line |
| w | To move to beginning of next word |
| b | To move back to beginning of preceding word |
| :0 <ret> or 1G | To move to beginning of file |
| :n <ret> or nG | To move to line n |
| :\$ <ret> or G | To move to last line in file |
| Ctrl-f or Page Down | To move forward one page |
| Ctrl-b or Page Up | To move backward one page |
| ^ | To refresh and center screen |

Searching for Text in vi

| Command | Usage |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <code>/pattern<ret></code> | Search forward for pattern |
| <code>?string<ret></code> | Search backward for pattern |

| Keys | Usage |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|
| n | Move to next occurrence of search pattern |
| N | Move to previous occurrence of search pattern |

Working with Text in vi

| Keys | Usage |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a | Append text after cursor; stop upon Escape key |
| A | Append text at end of current line; stop upon Escape key |
| i | Insert text before cursor; stop upon Escape key |
| I | Insert text at beginning of current line; stop upon Escape key |
| o | Start a new line below current line, insert text there; stop upon Escape key |
| O | Start a new line above current line, insert text there; stop upon Escape key |
| r | Replace character at current position |
| R | Replace text starting with current position; stop upon Escape key |
| x | Delete character at current position |
| Nx | Delete N characters, starting at current position |
| dw | Delete the word at the current position |
| D | Delete the rest of the current line |
| dd | Delete the current line |
| Ndd or dNd | Delete N lines |
| u | Undo the previous operation |
| yy | Yank (copy) the current line and put it in buffer |
| Nyy or yNy | Yank (copy) N lines and put it in buffer |
| p | Paste at the current position the yanked line or lines from the buffer |