



Vim Cheat Sheet

⌚ Created time	@November 29, 2025 8:26 PM
⌚ Last Edited	@November 30, 2025 7:08 AM
≡ Tags	

1. Navigation (Normal Mode)

Command	Action	Example / Mnemonic
h	Move Left	Left finger
j	Move Down	Jump down
k	Move Up	Klimb up
l	Move Right	Right finger
G	Go to last line	G round floor (bottom)
gg	Go to first line	gg (Go Go to top)
[#]G	Go to specific line number	42G goes to line 42
CTRL-G	Show file status	Shows current line number & file path
CTRL-O	Jump back	Old position (where you just were)
CTRL-I	Jump forward	Into the future (redo jump)

2. Insert & Editing

Command	Action	Example / Mnemonic
i	Insert before cursor	Insert text here
a	Append after cursor	Append after character
A	Append at end of line	After all text on line
o	Open new line below	Open below

Command	Action	Example / Mnemonic
O	Open new line above	Over the current line
X	Delete character	Like crossing out a letter
r	Replace single character	rx replaces current char with 'x'
R	Replace Mode	Overwrites text as you type
u	Undo	Undo mistake
CTRL-R	Redo	Redo the undo

3. The Grammar: [Operator] + [Count] + [Motion]

Think of this as speaking a sentence: "Verb" (Operator) + "Adjective" (Count) + "Noun" (Motion).

Operators (The Verbs)

- d: Delete
- c: Change (Delete + Enter Insert Mode)
- y: Yank (Copy)

Motions (The Nouns)

- w: Start of next word
- e: End of current word
- \$: End of line
- 0: Start of line
- b: previous word or start of current words

Common Combinations

Command	Action	Logic
dw	Delete word	delete word
cw	Change word	change word (rewrites it)
d\$	Delete to end of line	delete to \$ (end)

Command	Action	Logic
<code>yy</code>	Yank (Copy) line	Doubles act on whole line
<code>dd</code>	Delete (Cut) line	Doubles act on whole line
<code>p</code>	Paste (Put)	Put text after cursor

Using Counts

Command	Action	Logic
<code>2w</code>	Move 2 words forward	<code>2 + Word</code>
<code>d2w</code>	Delete 2 words	<code>delete + 2 + words</code>
<code>3dd</code>	Delete 3 lines	<code>3 + delete dlines</code>

4. Search & Replace

Command	Action	Example
<code>/text</code>	Search forward	<code>/error</code> finds "error"
<code>?text</code>	Search backward	<code>?config</code> looks up for "config"
<code>n</code>	Next match	Go to next result
<code>N</code>	Previous match	Go to previous result
<code>%</code>	Find matching pair	Jumps between <code>{</code> and <code>}</code>
<code>:s/old/new</code>	Replace first match on line	<code>:s/cat/dog</code>
<code>:%s/old/new/g</code>	Replace globally (whole file)	<code>:%s/foo/bar/g</code>
<code>:%s/old/new/gc</code>	Replace globally with check	Asks for confirmation each time

5. Tabs & File Management

Command	Action	Example
<code>:tabnew [file]</code>	Open new tab	<code>:tabnew script.py</code>
<code>gt</code>	Go to next tab	<code>Go Tab</code>
<code>gT</code>	Go to previous tab	<code>Go Tab (back)</code>
<code>:w [file]</code>	Write (Save) to file	<code>:w backup.txt</code>

Command	Action	Example
:r [file]	Read file into current	:r data.txt inserts data here

6. Visual Mode (Selecting Text)

Command	Action	Workflow Example
v	Visual Character Mode	v → move arrows → y (copy specific chars)
V	Visual Line Mode	V → move down → d (delete block of lines)
Export Selection	Save highlighted text to file	Select text (v), then type :w filename

Visual Block

Command	Action	Logic
CTRL + q	Enter Visual Block Mode	Selects rectangular columns.
Shift + I	Insert at start of block	Insert before selection add # to block to comment
Shift + A	Append at end of block	Append after selection.
c	Change block	Deletes block and lets you type over it.
CTRL + q → j → Shift + I → # → ESC	Comment out a block	

7. Power command

Command	Action	Why it's useful
.	Repeat last change	The biggest time saver in Vim.
CTRL + q	Visual Block mode	Edit columns (great for YAML/bulk edits).

<code>*</code>	Search word under cursor (Forward)	Instant search without typing.
<code>#</code>	Search word under cursor (Backward)	Same as <code>*</code> , but goes up.
<code>^</code>	Go to start of text on line	Better than <code>0</code> for indented code (Python).
<code>ciw</code>	Change In Word	Delete current word & switch to Insert mode (super precise).
<code>dd</code> vs <code>D</code>	<code>D</code> deletes from cursor to end of line	Faster than <code>d\$</code> .
<code>:! [cmd]</code>	Execute shell command	<code>:!ls -la</code> (Lists files)