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ed Cheat Sheet

ed is a small, powerful, line-oriented, command-line-interfaced text editor. All editors frustrate, but ed often amazes while others disappoint.

[ed, man!](#) [!man ed](#) — ed is the standard text editor.

man ed for more information.

Start ed from your shell command line:

```
ed file
```

Edit file by entering ed commands with the following syntax:

```
[ range ] [ command ]
```

range specifies the line or block of consecutive lines (syntax: *from-line, to-line*) to which *command* is applied. Default range is the current line except where noted below with a parenthesis preceding the command syntax. Lines are specified as follows:

<i>n</i>	line <i>n</i>	.	current	\$	last	' <i>c</i>	mark <i>c</i>
-[<i>n</i>]	up <i>n</i> (default: 1)	+[<i>n</i>]	down <i>n</i> (default: 1)	,	1,\$;	.,\$
? <i>re</i> ?	previous regexp match			/re/	next regexp match		

Input commands

a	Append after.	c	Change range.	i	Insert before.	.	End input mode.
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Edit commands

d	Delete.	s/re/s/[g n][p]	Substitute.
m[line]	Move after <i>line</i> .	t[line]	Copy after <i>line</i> .
(.,+)j	Join lines.	u	Undo.
(1,\$)g/re/cmds	Perform <i>cmds</i> for all matching lines.	(1,\$)v/re/cmds	Perform <i>cmds</i> for all non-matching lines.

File commands

e [file*]	Edit <i>file</i> .	E [file*]	Edit, discarding changes.
(\$)r [file]	Read and append.	f [file]	Set/display file name.
(1,\$)w [file*]	Write.	(1,\$)W [file*]	Append to <i>file</i> .
(1,\$)wq [file*]	Write and quit.		

* In place of *file*, specify "!*shell-command*" to read/write text to *shell-command* standard output/input.

Display commands

p	List lines.	l	... with unprintables.	n	... with numbers.
(+)z[lines]	Scroll.	(+)null	p		

Other commands

kc	Mark line.	(\$)=	Display line number.	h	Last error text.
!shell-command	Execute <i>shell-command</i> .	q	Quit.	Q	Quit, discarding changes.

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