# Command line history/search history

In chapter 3 we briefly mentioned the history. The basics are that you can

use the <Up> key to recall an older command line. <Down> then takes you back

to newer commands.

There are actually four histories. The ones we will mention here are for ":"

commands and for "/" and "?" search commands. The "/" and "?" commands share

the same history, because they are both search commands. The two other

histories are for expressions and input lines for the input() function.

|[cmdline-history](http://ideavim.sourceforge.net/vim/cmdline.html" \l "vim.cmdline-history)|

Suppose you have done a ":set" command, typed ten more colon commands and then

want to repeat that ":set" command again. You could press ":" and then ten

times <Up>. There is a quicker way:

:se<Up>

Vim will now go back to the previous command that started with "se". You have

a good chance that this is the ":set" command you were looking for. At least

you should not have to press <Up> very often (unless ":set" commands is all

you have done).

The <Up> key will use the text typed so far and compare it with the lines in

the history. Only matching lines will be used.

If you do not find the line you were looking for, use <Down> to go back to

what you typed and correct that. Or use CTRL-U to start all over again.

To see all the lines in the history:

:history

That's the history of ":" commands. The search history is displayed with this

command:

:history /