Vim Cheatsheet

If you have not set git's default text editor, it will probably default to Vi/Vim, which is a text editor that can be used directly from the command-line interface. You navigate it only using your keyboard and there are no graphical buttons. When you first use Vim it can be a challenge to even just exit it again. For the purpose of this Git workshop you mostly need to use Vim to type single-line commit messages. To achieve this you will need to know only the handful of keys that we have listed for you here:

Vim Modes

Vim has a mode for inserting text and several modes for editing text. For us, only two modes will be important:

- **Command mode** is the default mode of Vim. It provides a library of keyboard-based commands to edit text. Pressing the escape key switches back to this mode.

- **Insert mode** allows for the insertion of text. This is the functionality most users associate with text editors. Pressing the i key in command mode switches to insert mode.

Navigating vim

- **Navigate** the cursor through the arrow keys on your keyboard. This is possible in any mode.

- **Exiting** Vim is possible from Command mode (ESC key) by typing `:x` to save and exit or `:q!` to force exit without saving. Press enter to submit your command.

In case you would like to know more…

- Type `vimtutor` into your terminal for more commands.

- Learn using Vim through this game: https://vim-adventures.com/.