

Vim Cheat Sheet

Opening Files (command line)

vi filename	Opens new or existing file
vi -r filename	Recover file from crashed session
vi + filename	Place cursor on last line of file
vi +n filename	Place cursor on line 'n' of file
vi +/pat filename	Place cursor on line with first occurrence of 'pat'tern

Modes

Esc	Switch to NORMAL mode
i (or I)	Switch to INSERT mode
R	Switch to REPLACE mode
v	Switch to VISUAL mode

Closing Files (NORMAL mode)

:w	Write the file to disk, but don't quit Vim
:w!	Write the file to disk (even if read-only), but don't quit Vim
:wq	Write the file to disk and quit Vim
:wq!	Write the file to disk, even if read-only and quit Vim
:q	Quit Vim (only if no changes)
:q!	Quit Vim, even if changes exist (changes are lost) -- panic cmd

Navigating Files (NORMAL mode)

h (Left Arrow)	Move 1 space backwards
j (Down Arrow)	Move down 1 line
k (Up Arrow)	Move up 1 line
l (Right Arrow)	Move 1 space forward
^	Move to beginning of line
\$	Move to end of line
A	Move to end of line, change to insert mode
w ('W' ignores punctuation)	Move cursor to start of next word or punctuation symbol
b ('B' ignores punctuation)	Move cursor to start of previous word or punctuation symbol
%	Move to next matching '()', ''', or '[]'
:n	Go to line number 'n' in the file
gg	Go to first line in file
G	Go to last line in file
:set number (:set nu)	Display line numbers

Editing (NORMAL mode)

o	Add a line below cursor and switch to INSERT mode
x (or 'Del' key)	Delete character
D	Delete (Cut) line from right of cursor to end of line
dd	Delete (Cut) entire line
u	Undo last edit or restore current line
yy	Yank (Copy) current line
yw	Yank (Copy) individual word
p	Put yanked (Paste) text before the cursor

Searching (NORMAL mode)

/pattern	Search for 'pattern' in the file (forward search)
?pattern	Search for 'pattern' in the file (backward search)
n	Find next occurrence of pattern (forward search)
N	Find previous occurrence of pattern (backward search)

Find & Replace (NORMAL mode)

:%s/foo/bar/g	Find 'foo' and replace with 'bar' across all lines
:s/foo/bar/g	Find 'foo' and replace with 'bar' in current line

Selecting text (NORMAL or VISUAL mode)

v	Activates selection of text by character (visual mode)
V	Activates selection of text by lines (visual mode)
Ctrl-v	Activates selection of text by blocks (columns and characters)