Vi Cheat Sheet

LINUXSIMPLY

Launching Vi Editor

vi	Opens the editor in default mode
vi <filename.txt>	Opens the specified file or creates a new file in vi editor

Switch to Insert Mode

i	Changes to insert mode
I	Inserts text at the start of the current line
a	Appends after the cursor's current position
A	Appends to the end of the line
o	Adds a new line beneath the current one
O	Opens a new line above the current line

Jump Line Commands

G	Indicates you to the file's final line
I	Takes you to your last position in the file

Copy & Paste Commands

yy	Copies (yanks) a line of text
yw	Copies the current word from the character with the lowercase w cursor is on, until the word is finished
p	Paste a line of yanked text after the current line
P	Paste before the current line

Searching String

/string	Forwards lookup for a given string
?string	Backwards lookup for a given string
/^string	Forwards search string at the start of a line
/string$	Forwards search string at line's end
n	Proceeds to the next occurrence of the searched string
/\<he\>	Looks for the word he (rather than there, here, and so on)
/pl[abc]ce	Looks up the terms place, plbce, and plcce

Joining Lines

J	Joins two lines
yyp	Repeats the current line
ddp	Swaps two lines

Navigating within a File

k	Moves up one line
j	Moves down one line
h	Moves one character to the left
l	Moves right one character
G	Navigates to the last line of a file
XG	Navigates to line X in a file
gg	Navigates to the first line of a file

Saving & Closing File

wq or ZZ	Saves your work and exit vi
w	Continues editing after saving
w!	Saves (and write to a non-writable file)
q!	Quits vi without saving the changes

Text Buffers

"add	Deletes the current line and insert text into buffer a
"ap	Paste the line from buffer a

Set Commands

set ic	Set case insensitivity while searching
set ai	Sets auto indention
set noai	Unsets auto indention
set nu	Shows lines with line numbers on the left side of the screen
set sw	Sets the width of a software tabstop
set ws	If wrapscan is enabled and the word is not found at the end of the file, it will look for it at the beginning

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Changing Text Commands

cc	Removes the line's contents, returning you to insert mode
cw	Changes the current word with new text, starting with the character under cursor
R	Overwrites characters beginning with the cursor
s	Substitutes one character under cursor continue to insert
S	Substitutes entire line and begin to insert at the beginning of the line

Other Vi Shortcuts

b	Returns to the word's beginning
e	Goes to the end of the word
Xyy	Yanks X number of lines
num	Shows the line number of the current line
Esc	Switches to Command mode /Terminate insert mode
xp	Switches two characters
cw	Changes word
~	Changes the case of an individual character

Undo & Repeat Commands

u	Undo the most recent change
U	Reverts all changes made to the entire line
.	Repeats the last command

set wm	If this option is set to a value greater than zero, the editor will "word wrap" automatically
set ro	Sets the file type to "read only"
set term	Prints the terminal type
set bf	Discards control characters from input

Scrolling Commands

CTRL+D	Moves the screen down by half a page
CTRL+F	Scrolls the screen down by a full page
CTRL+U	Scrolls the screen up by half a page
CTRL+B	Scrolls the screen up by a full page
CTRL+E	Scrolls the screen up by one line
CTRL+Y	Scrolls the screen down by one line
CTRL+I	Redraws the screen