Vim

Vim is one of the few editors available on nearly all Unix systems, accessible from the terminal. Commands are desgined to be efficient and there are plugins for almost everything.

General

esc - return to normal mode from insert mode

CTRL-C - return to normal mode from insert mode

Typing a number ‘x’ in normal mode will repeat the next action ‘x’ many times if iterable

CTRL-G - Show file and location

External bash commands can be run using :!<command> then hitting enter

Movement

h - left

k - up

l -right

j - down

gg - move to top

G - move to bottom

<num>G - move to line <num>

CTRL-O - Move back to last location

CTRL-I - Move forward to next location

% - moves to next parentheses

% while on parenthesis - moves to opposite matching

Exiting/Saving

In normal mode:

:q! - exits without saving

:wq - exits and saves

:!ls or :!dir - to get list of current directory

:w <filename> - writes selected text to filename

:r <filename> - text from a file will be inserted on the current line

:r !<bash-command> - will write the output of a command to the current line

Editing

x - delete current charater

i - insert charater at cursor

A - append to end of line

a - append to current cursor

u - undo last action

U - fix whole line

CTRL-R - redo

jk

d<char>: - delete action

* de - delete upto end of current word
* dw - delete up to the next word
* d$ - delete to end of line
* dd - deletes whole line

r<char> - replace the current charater with the next typed after r

R - replace current charaters by overwriting

c<char> - change action

* ce - delete current word and enter insert mode
* cw - change upto next word
* c$ - change upto end of line

o - open new line below

O - open new line above

v - visually select text, then run command with ‘:’

Search

/<search-phrase>\arg - searches for next instance of phrase

\c - ignores case

n - search for same phrase again

N - search for for phrase in opposite direction

use wrapscan to search the entire document not just forward from the location

Options can be added to search:

* :set ic - seach ignoring case
* :set hls - highlights search matches
* :set is - highlights as matches occur

Substitution

:s/<old>/<new>/arg

Replaces first instance of word in line with the replacement, arguments can be passed such as:

* g - replaces all instances
* gc - all instances prompt for change

The whole file can be changed using:

:%s/<old>/<new>/arg

Line numbers can also be given for where to replace words:

:#,#s/<old>/<new>/g

:100,200s/thee/the/g - will replace all instances of ‘thee’ with ‘the’ between line 100 and 200

Copy and Paste

Use v to select text, then ‘y’ to yank it, move to the location and paste using ‘p’

y<action> - yank

* yw - copy word

Help

:help to find commands

:help user-manual to see full manual

command CTRL-D will show all options which can be used with command