

# Vim Editor Reference

## Vim Editor Tutorial

**vimtutor** launches the vim tutorial from the command line

## 4 modes of vim

**ESC** normal mode (default)  
**:** command mode  
**i** insert mode  
**v** visual mode

## Saving, Exiting (command mode)

**:w** write to disk  
**:wqwr** write contents then quit  
**:q** quit  
**:q!** quit without saving changes

## Insert Mode

**i** insert before cursor  
**o** open new line below  
**O** open new line above  
**a** append (insert after cursor)  
**A** append at end of line  
**ESC** return to normal mode

## Navigation

**h** moves cursor left  
**j** moves cursor down  
**k** moves cursor up  
**l** moves cursor right  
**w** moves forward to start of word  
**b** moves backward to start of word  
**e** moves forward to end of word  
**^** move to start of line  
**\$** move to end of line  
**G** move to end of file  
**gg** move to start of file  
**nG** move to line n  
**CTRL-f** page down  
**CTRL-b** page up  
**CTRL-u** half page up  
**CTRL-d** half page down

## Searching (normal mode)

**/word** search forward for "word"  
**?word** search backward for "word"  
**n** repeat last search forward  
**N** repeat last search backward  
**CTRL-o** return to older locations  
**CTRL-i** return to newer locations

## Delete (and place in buffer)

**x** delete character  
**nx** delete n characters  
**dd** delete line  
**ddd** delete n lines  
**d0** delete to beginning of line  
**d\$** delete to end of line  
**dw** delete word  
**ndw** delete n words

## Copy (and place in buffer)

**yy** yank (copy) line  
**nyy** yank n lines  
**yw** yank word  
**nyw** yank n words

## Pasting

**p** paste after cursor  
**P** paste before cursor

## Miscellaneous editing commands

**u** undo last commands  
**U** (capital) fix whole line  
**.** repeat last command  
**>>** indent one tab  
**n>>** indent n line one tab  
**<<** out-dent one tab  
**n<<** out-dent n line one tab  
**CTRL-r** redo commands  
**r** replace character under cursor  
**R** replace several characters  
**ce** change from cursor to end of word  
**c\$** change from cursor to end of line  
**CTRL-G** display location and file status

## Using Other Paste Buffers

**"andw** delete n words and place in buffer a  
**"bndw** delete n words and place in buffer b  
**"ap** paste contents of buffer a  
**"bp** paste contents of buffer b

## Visual Mode and Helpful Commands

**v** enter visual mode to visually select text  
**:w filename** write selected text as filename  
**:r filename** reads filename and puts text below cursor

## Helpful Commands

**:! filename** execute external command  
**:w filename** write to disk as filename  
**:%s/old/new/g** substitute globally  
**:%s/old/new/gc** subs globally with prompt  
**:set ic** ignore case when searching  
**:set is** show partial matches for search phrase  
**:set hls** highlight matching phrases  
**:set noOPTION** prepend "no" to switch options off  
**:set number** show line numbers  
**:help** open help window

## .vimrc file

" unmap the arrow keys  
no <down> ddp  
no <left> <nop>  
no <right> <nop>  
no <up> ddkP  
ino <down> <nop>  
ino <left> <nop>  
ino <right> <nop>  
ino <up> <nop>  
" quick pairs  
imap <leader>' '<esc>i  
imap <leader>" "<esc>i  
imap <leader>()<esc>i  
imap <leader>[]<esc>i  
" basic c formatting  
set ai sw=4  
set number  
set expandtab  
set softtabstop=4  
set smartindent  
" vimscript exercises  
imap <c-d> <esc> ddi  
imap <c-u> <esc> viwU  
nmap <c-u> viwU  
" use mouse  
set mouse=a