vi editor commands

3 modes of vi

command mode

you can navigate the file and use the commands on this sheet

insert mode

you insert text into the file and can move around (using the arrows) in the file if you are using vim. You exit insert mode by pressing the **ESC key.**

special command mode

Allows you to enter special commands. While in command mode, press :

enter insert mode commands

i	insert before cursor
o	lower-case oh opens a new line (below)
O	upper-case oh opens a new line (above)
a	append (insert after cursor)
A	append at end of line

saving, exiting

:w	write contents to disk
:wq	write contents and quit
ZZ	write contents and quit
:q	quit
:q!	quit and don't save changes

searching

/foo	search forward for "foo"
?foo	search backwards for "foo"
n	repeat last search

delete (and place in buffer)

x	delete current character
10x	delete 10 characters
dd	delete current line
6dd	delete 6 lines
d0	delete to beginning of line
d$	delete to end of line
dw	delete word
3dw	delete 3 words

copy (and place in buffer)

yy	yank (copy)
5yy	yank 5 lines

pasting

p	lower-case pee pastes after cursor
P	upper-case pee pastes before cursor

using other paste buffers

"a7dw	delete 7 words and place in buffer a
"b5dd	delete 5 lines and place in buffer b
"ap	paste contents of buffer a
"bp	paste contents of buffer b

navigation

↑	move up one line
5↑	move up 5 lines
↓	move down 1 line
6↓	move down 6 lines
1G	go to line 1
15G	go to line 15
G	go to last line
H	go to top of screen (high)
L	go to bottom of screen (low)
w	go to next word
7w	move over 7 words
b	back one word
0	go to beginning of line
$	go to end of line

special command mode

:r foo	read file foo into this file after cursor
:!*command*	execute the specified unix command and return to vi
:r !*command*	execute the specified unix command and read the results into this file after the cursor
:10,20d	delete lines 10-20
:1,$s/alpha/beta/g	from the first line to the last line, change all occurrences of alpha to beta.
:5,10>	indent lines 5 through 10
:20,30<	de-indent lines 10 through 20

miscellaneous editing commands

u	undo
.	repeat last command
J	join two lines
5>>	indent 5 lines 1 tab
2<<	de-indent 2 lines 1 tab
>%	with cursor on a brace, indent bracketed block of lines
<%	de-indent bracketed block of lines

.vimrc file

:set ai sw=4

:set number

:set expandtab

:set softtabstop=4

:set smartindent