

vim Quick Reference

Starting VIM	
vim <i>file</i>	edit <i>file</i>
vim +<i>n file</i>	edit <i>file</i> at line <i>n</i>
vim + <i>file</i>	edit <i>file</i> at end of file
vim +/<i>str file</i>	edit <i>file</i> at first instance of <i>str</i>
command vim -	edit output of <i>command</i> in vim

Exiting VIM	
:w	write (save) the file, but don't exit
:wq	write (save) and quit
:q	quit (fails if anything has changed)
:q!	quit and throw away changes
:qa	quit all open buffers
:wqa	write (save) and quit all open buffers

General	
u	undo
U	undo all changes to line
Ctrl+r	redo
Ctrl+l	redraw screen
Ctrl+g	display line and file info
.	repeat last command
:info	show every session, window, pane, etc.

Visual Mode	
v	start visual mode
V	start visual line mode
gv	reselect last block
Ctrl+v	start visual block mode
o	move to other end of marked area
O	move to other corner of block

Visual Commands	
y	yank marked text
d	delete marked text
c	delete the marked text and go into insert mode
u	lowercase the selected text
U	uppercase the selected text
>	shift text right
<	shift text left
=	auto-indent line
~	change case

Delete Text	
x	delete to the right of cursor
X	delete to the left of cursor
dd	delete the current line
D	delete to the end of line
dm	deletes from the cursor to the move-to point
di(delete inner text between (chars
:x,yd	delete lines x through y

Insert/Appending/Changing Text	
i	insert before cursor
I	insert at beginning of line
a	append after cursor
A	append at end of line
o	add new line after current line
O	add new line before current line
rc	replace a single character c
R	replace many characters
:r <i>file</i>	read <i>file</i> and insert if after line
sc	substitute single character c and enter Insert
S	substitute the current line and enter Insert
J	join line below to the current one
nJ	join next <i>n</i> lines
Cc	change an entire line
cm	change from the cursor to the <i>move-to</i> point
ci(change inner text between (chars
Ctrl+w	delete backwards one word
Ctrl+u	delete to beginning of line
Ctrl+t	indent current line
Ctrl+d	remove current line indentation

Cursor Movement (command/normal mode)	
w	jump by start of words
W	jump by words (spaces separate words)
b	jump backward by words
B	jump backward by words (no punctuation)
e	jump to end of words
E	jump to end of words (no punctuation)

Above commands can be preceded by a number for repetition

Advanced Cursor Movement (command/normal mode)	
H	top of screen
M	middle of screen
L	bottom of screen
0 or ^	beginning of line
\$	end of line
(back a sentence (the previous . or blank line)
)	forward a sentence (the next . or blank line)
}	forward by paragraph (the next blank line)
{	backward by paragraph (the next blank line)
%	jump to next match punctuation

Cursor Searching	
fc	move to the next c on the current line after the cursor
Fc	move to the next c on the current line before the cursor
tc	move to before the next c on the current line after the cursor
Tc	move to before the next c on the current line before the cursor

Window Movement	
Ctrl+u	move up half a page
Ctrl+d	move down half a page
Ctrl+b	page backwards
Ctrl+f	page forwards
1G or gg	start of file
G	end of file
:n or nG	go to <i>n</i> line in file
z<cr>	reposition window cursor at top
z.	reposition window cursor at middle
z-	reposition window cursor at bottom

Cut/Paste Text	
yy	yank the current line
yw	yank the current word
p	put the clipboard after cursor
P	put before cursor
:x,yy	yank lines x through y

Search/Replace	
/pattern	search for <i>pattern</i>
?pattern	search backward for <i>pattern</i>
n	repeat search in same direction
N	repeat search in opposite direction
:x,yg/str	search from line x to y for <i>str</i>
*	next instance of current word
#	previous instance of current word
:%s/old/new/g	replace all <i>old</i> with <i>new</i>
:%s/old/new/gc	replace all <i>old</i> with <i>new</i> with confirmations

Marks	
m{a-z}	set mark {a-z} at cursor position in current file
m{A-Z}	set global mark {A-Z} which works between files
‘{a-z}	move the cursor to the start of the line where the mark was set
`{a-z}	move the cursor to line and column where the mark was set
‘’	go back to the previous jump location
‘{0-9}	go to last <i>n</i> location of cursor before vim exited
‘”	go to last cursor position in current buffer
‘.	go to the position the last change was made

Jumps	
:jumps	list current jumps
Ctrl+i	jump backwards through list
Ctrl+o	jump forwards through list
g;	go backwards in the change list
g,	go forwards in the change list

Folding	
zc	close folds at cursor
zo	open folds at cursor
za	toggle folding at cursor
zr	reduce all folding
zm	adds one layer of folding

Changing the modification key to capital will modify all folding

Registers and Macros	
:reg	list named registers
“kp	print data or macro in register <i>k</i>
qk	record macro into register <i>k</i>
@k	execute register <i>k</i>
n@@	repeat macro <i>n</i> times

Buffers and Windows	
:next path/f*	open multiple <i>file</i> buffers
:find file	find <i>file</i> recursively and open open
:ls	list buffers
:b file	switch to buffer <i>file</i>
:sb file	split window with buffer <i>file</i>
gb	list buffers and populate buffer prompt
:bd file	delete file buffer
:%bd	delete all file buffers
- or :sp	horizontally split window
 or :vsp	vertically split window
<tab> or Ctrl+ww	switch between windows
Ctrl+wr	swap the window splits
Ctrl+c or Ctrl+wq	quit a window

Spelling	
F7 or :set spell	toggle spelling
]s	forward to next spelling error
[s	backwards to previous spelling error
zg	add word to personal dictionary
zG	add word for this session
zw	add word as misspelling to personal dictionary
zW	add word as misspelling for this session
z=	show suggestions
:spellr	repeat last replacement for all words