

## VIM QUICK REFERENCE CARD

Most frequently used VIM commands – Version v1.0 May 2014

**:viusage** ... Show a summary of all commands

### Movements

**h l k j** ..... character left, right; line up, down  
**b w** ..... word/token left, right  
**ge e** ..... end of word/token left, right  
**{ }** ..... beginning of previous, next paragraph  
**( )** ..... beginning of previous, next sentence  
**[[ ]]** ..... go to previous, next function  
**[{ }]** ..... beginning, end of current block  
**0 ^ \$** ..... beginning, first, last character of line  
**nG ngg** ..... line *n*, default the last, first  
**n|** ..... column *n* of current line  
**%** ..... match of next brace, bracket, comment, **#define**  
**- +** ..... line up, down on first non-blank character  
**B W** ..... space-separated word left, right  
**gE E** ..... end of space-separated word left, right  
**g0 gm** ..... beginning, middle of *screen* line  
**g^ g\$** ..... first, last character of *screen* line  
**fc Fc** ..... next, previous occurrence of character *c*  
**tc Tc** ..... before next, previous occurrence of *c*

### Jumps

**:jumps** ..... print the jump list  
**:ta ^[** ..... jump to tag (under cursor)  
**^O ^I** ..... jump to older/newer location btw buffers  
**ng; ng,** ..... go to *n* older/newer position in change list  
**'.** ..... jump back on last edited line  
**''** ..... toggle back/forward to previous/next position

### Insertion & Replace → insert mode

**i a** ..... insert before, after cursor  
**I A** ..... insert at beginning, end of line  
**gi gI** ..... insert text on last edited line / first column  
**o O** ..... open a new line below, above the current line  
**rc** ..... replace character under cursor with *c*  
**grc** ..... like **r**, but without affecting layout  
**R** ..... replace characters starting at the cursor  
**gR** ..... like **R**, but without affecting layout  
**sc** ..... substitute char. *c* under cursor  
**cm** ..... change text of movement command *m*  
**cc or S** ..... change current line  
**C** ..... change to the end of line

### Deletion

**x X** ..... delete character under, before cursor  
**dm** ..... delete text of movement command *m*  
**dd D** ..... delete current line, to the end of line  
**dgn** ..... delete the next search pattern match  
**J gJ** ..... join current line with next, without space  
**:rd** ..... delete range *r* lines  
**:rdx** ..... delete range *r* lines into register *x*  
**qxq** ..... empty register *x*  
**:g/pattern/d x | let @+ = @x**  
delete lines with pattern *c* into Register *x* and copy to clipboard afterwards.

### Insert/ Command Mode

**^Vc ^Vn** ..... insert char *c* literally, decimal value *n*  
**^Vn** ..... insert decimal value of character  
**^A** ..... insert previously inserted text  
**^@** ..... same as **^A** and stop insert → command mode

**^Rx ^R^Rx** ... insert content of register *x*, literally  
**^R^W** ..... content under cursor to command mode  
**^N ^P** ..... text completion before, after cursor  
**^W** ..... delete word before cursor  
**^U** ..... delete to start of current line  
**^D ^T** ..... shift left, right one shift width  
**^Oc** ..... execute *c* in temporary command mode  
**^X^E ^X^Y** ... scroll up, down  
**<esc> or ^] or ^C** abandon edition → command mode

### Search & Substitution

**/s↔ ?s↔** ... search forward, backward for *s*  
**/s/o↔ ?s?o↔**  
search fwd, bwd for *s* with offset *o*  
**n or /↔** ..... repeat forward last search  
**N or ?↔** ..... repeat backward last search  
**# \*** ..... search backward, forward for word under cursor  
**g# g\*** ..... same, but also find partial matches  
**gd gD** ..... local, global definition of symbol under cursor  
**:rs/f/t/x** ... substitute *f* by *t* in range *r*  
**:rco a :rm a**  
copy, move range *r* below line *a*  
**:rs x** ..... repeat substitution with new *r* & *x*  
**:rg/p/c :rv/p/c**  
execute *Ex c* on range *r* where *p* matches, not matches  
**:rg/p/-1j** .. join all lines in *r* containing pattern *p* with prevline  
**:rg/p/s/q/y/g**  
for every line in *r* containing *p*, substitute *q* with *y*  
**: 'a, 'bg/p/j** . join any line containing the string *p* to its subsequent line, if it lies between the *a* and *b* marks

### Misc Ex Commands (↔)

:help holy-grail  
:e *f* ..... edit file *f*, reload current file if no *f*  
:rw *f* ..... write range *r* to file *f* (current file if no *f*)  
:rw >> *f* .... append range *r* to file *f*  
:q :q! ..... quit and confirm, quit and discard changes  
:wq *or* :x *or* ZZ write to current file and exit  
:r *f* ..... insert content of file *f* below cursor  
:r! *c* ..... insert output of command *c* below cursor

**Miscellaneous**

:rhardcopy rw!lp  
                    sending *r* to printer (printout)  
:rhardcopy > file.ps  
                    print range to ps file  
:mkview [*f*] :loadview [*f*]  
                    save/load configuration  
:mks [*f*] :so [*f*]  
                    save/load session  
:set ff=dos convert file to dos eol format  
:e ++ff=unix  
                    reopen file in unix eol format  
:sh :!*c* ..... start shell, execute command *c* in shell  
K ..... run **keywordprg** (manpage) on word under cursor  
^L ..... redraw screen  
^R = 5\*5..... insert 25 into text  
ga ..... show ASCII value of character under cursor  
gf ..... open file which filename is under cursor  
vim -S *name*  
                    reload vim-session *name*

**Ex Ranges**

, ; ..... separates line numbers, set to first line  
*n* ..... an absolute line number *n*  
. \$ ..... the current line, the last line in file

% \* ..... entire file, visual area  
'*t* ..... position of mark *t*  
/p/ ?*p*? .... the next, previous line where *p* matches  
-*n* +*n* ..... preceding/appending line number

**Standard Mode Formatting/ Filtering**

Leave out *m* for visual mode commands  
gq*m* gqgq ... format movement *m*/current paragraph  
:rce *w* ..... center lines in range *r* to width *w*  
:rri *w* ..... rightalign lines in range *r* to width *w*  
:rle *i* ..... left align lines in range with indent *i*  
!mc↔ ..... filter lines of movement *m* through command *c*  
*n*!c↔ ..... filter *n* lines through command *c*  
:r!*c* ..... filter range *r* lines through command *c*  
~ ..... switch case and advance cursor  
g~*m* gum gUm  
                    switch case, lc, uc on movement *m*  
guu gUU..... lower-/uppercase line  
< *m* > *m* .. shift left, right text of movement *m*  
*n* << *n* >> .. shift *n* lines left, right  
^A ^X..... increment/decrement number under cursor

**Visual Mode**

:h object-select  
v V ^V ..... start/stop highlighting characters, lines, block  
o ..... exchange cursor position with start of highlighting  
gv ..... start highlighting on previous visual area  
aw as ap ... select a word, a sentence, a paragraph  
ab aB ..... select a block ( ), a block { }  
g^G..... Count words, character lines and bytes of selection

**Undoing, Repeating & Registers**

u U ..... undo last command, restore last changed line  
. ^R ..... repeat last changes, redo last undo  
*n*. ..... repeat last changes with count replaced by *n*  
qc qC ..... record, append typed characters in register *c*  
q ..... stop recording  
@*c* ..... execute the content of register *c*  
@@ ..... repeat previous @ command  
:@*c* ..... execute register *c* as an *Ex* command

**Copying**

"*x* ..... use register *x* for next delete, yank, put  
:reg ..... show the content of all registers  
:reg *x* ..... show the content of registers *x*  
*ym* ..... yank the text of movement command *m*  
yy *or* Y ..... yank current line into register  
p P ..... put register after, before cursor position  
]p [p ..... like p, P with indent adjusted  
gp gP ..... like p, P leaving cursor after new text

**Patterns (differences to Perl)**

:help pattern  
\< \> ..... start, end of word  
\i \k \I \K an identifier, keyword; excludigits  
\f \p \F \P a file name, printable char.; excludigits  
\e \t \r \b <esc>, <tab>, <↔>, <←>  
\= \* \+ ..... match 0..1, 0..∞, 1..∞ of preceding atoms  
\{*n,m*> ..... match *n* to *m* occurrences  
\{-> ..... non-greedy match  
\| ..... separate two branches (≡ *or*)  
\( \) ..... group patterns into an atom

`\& \1` ..... the whole matched pattern, 1<sup>st</sup> () group  
`\u \l` ..... upper, lowercase character  
`\c \C` ..... ignore, match case on next pattern  
`\%x` ..... match hex character  
`\@= \@!` ... *char(=?pattern) char(?!pattern)*  
`\@<= \@<!` (=?pattern)*char (?!pattern)char*  
`\@>` ..... (?!>pattern)  
`\_^ \_$$` ..... start-of-line/end-of-line, anywhere in pattern  
`\.` ..... any single char, including end-of-line  
`\zs \ze` ..... set start/end of pattern  
`\%^ \%$` ..... match start/end of file  
`\%V` ..... match inside visual area  
`\'m` ..... match with position of mark m  
`\%(\\)` ..... unnamed grouping  
`\-[ ]` ..... collection with end-of-line included  
`\%[ ]` ..... sequence of optionally matched atoms  
`\v` ..... very magic: patterns almost like perl

### Spell Checking

`:set spell spelllang=de_20`  
activate spellcheck  
`]s [s` ..... next, previous misspelled word  
`zg zG` ..... add good word (to internal word list)  
`zug zuG`..... undo the addition of a word to the dictionary  
`zw zW` ..... mark bad word (to internal word list)  
`z=` ..... suggest corrections

### Marks, Motions, and Tags

`mc` ..... mark current position with mark *c* ∈ [*a..Z*]  
`:marks` ..... print the active marks list  
`'c 'C` ..... go to mark *c* in current, *C* in any file  
`'0..9` ..... go to last exit position

`'' ''` ..... go to position before jump, at last edit  
`'[ '['` ..... go to start, end of previously operated text  
`n^O` ..... go to *n*<sup>th</sup> older position in jump list  
`n^I` ..... go to *n*<sup>th</sup> newer position in jump list  
`] ^T` ..... jump to the tag under cursor, return from tag  
`:ts t` ..... list matching tags and select one for jump  
`:tj t` ..... jump to tag or select one if multiple matches  
`:tags` ..... print tag list

### Multiple Files / Buffers (↔)

`:tab ball` .. show buffer tablist  
`:buffers` ... show list of buffers  
`:on` ..... make current window one on screen  
`:new :vnew` . create new empty window (vert.)  
`:bn` ..... switch to buffer *n*  
`:bnext :bprev :bfirst :blast`  
buffer movement  
`:bdn` ..... delete buffer *n* (also with filename)  
`:badd f.txt` load file into new buffer  
`:sbn` ..... Split window and edit buffer *n* from the bufflist

### Buffer Shortcuts

`:h ctrl-w`  
`:bd *.ext ^A` Deletes all Buffers with Extension 'ext'  
`^^` ..... toggle between the current and the last window  
`^Wf gf` ..... open file under cursor in new/current window  
`^Ww ^W^W` .... move to window below, above (wrap)  
`^Wj ^Wk` ..... move to window below, above  
`^Wt ^Wb` ..... move to top/bottom window  
`^Wc ^Wo` ..... close current/all other window(s)

`^Ws ^Wv` ..... split window in two (vert.)  
`^Wx` ..... swap open buffer windows  
`^Wn+ ^Wn-` ... increase/decrease window size by *n* lines  
`^Wn > ^Wn <` increase/decrease window width  
`^W =` ..... Make all windows equally high and wide  
`^W n_` ..... set window height to *n* (default: very high)  
`^W n|` ..... set current window width to *n*

### Plugin Commands

`:BufOnly` ... Deletes all other Buffers

### Tab Management

`:tabs` ..... list all tabs including their displayed windows  
`:tabfirst` .. go to first tab  
`:tablast` ... go to last tab  
`:tabnew` ..... open a new empty tab page  
`:tabc` ..... close current tab page  
`:wqa :qa` ... (save and) quit all tabs  
`:tabo` ..... close all other tabs  
`gt gT` ..... go to next/previous Tab  
`ngt` ..... goto tab in position *n*

### Advanced Scrolling

`n^Y n^E` ..... Scroll window *n* lines up-/downwards  
`^D ^U` ..... scroll half a page up, down  
`^F ^B` ..... scroll page up, down  
`zt zz zb` ... current line to top, center, bottom of win.  
`zh zl` ..... scroll one character to the right, left  
`zH zL` ..... scroll half a screen to the right, left

### Completion

`^X`L` ..... whole lines  
`^X`N ^X`I` ..... keywords in current file, plus included files  
`^X`K ^X`N` ..... keywords in dictionary, thesaurus  
`^X`]` ..... tags  
`^X`F` ..... file names  
`^X`D` ..... definitions or macros  
`^X`V` ..... vim command line  
`^X`U` ..... user defined completion  
`^X`O` ..... omni completion

## Folding

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`zfm` ..... create fold of movement *m*  
`:rfo` ..... create fold for range *r*  
`zd zE` ..... delete fold at cursor, all in window  
`zo zc zO zC` open, close one fold; recursively  
`[z ]z` ..... move to start, end of current open fold  
`zj zk` ..... move down, up to start, end of next fold  
`zm zM` ..... fold more, close all folds  
`zr zR` ..... fold less, open all folds  
`zn zN zi` ... fold non, fold normal, invert folding  
`:set foldcolumn=n`  
                   show foldcolumn *n*

## Compiling

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`:compiler c` set/show compiler plugins  
`:make` ..... run `makeprg`, jump to first error  
`:cope` ..... navigate errors from make  
`:cn :cp` ..... display the next, previous error  
`:cl :cf` ..... list all errors, read errors from file

## Indentation

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`:set fdm=indent`  
                   indent-foldmethod  
`n> n< =` ... indent/unindent *n* levels, reindent  
`n>> n<< ..` indent/dedent *n* lines  
`G=gg` ..... auto (re)indent entire document

## Vim Start-Options

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`vimdiff f1 f2`  
                   diff *file*<sub>1</sub> + *file*<sub>2</sub> using synchronized split windows  
`vim -o/-O f1 f2`  
                   open *files* in horiz/vert split mode  
  
`vim +n file .` open *file* at *n*th line (eof if *n* omitted)  
  
`vim +/s file` open *file* and search for *string*

## Most Common Digraphs

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`:dig` ..... complete list of all digraphs  
`^Kc1c2 or c1←c2`  
                   enter digraph {*c*<sub>1</sub>, *c*<sub>2</sub>}  
  
`Co` ..... Copyright  
  
`Rg` ..... Registered Trademark  
  
`!I` ..... ¡: Inverteted Excl. Mark  
  
`?I` ..... ¿: Inverteted Quest. Mark  
  
`Eu` ..... Euro Currency  
  
`Li` ..... Britain Pound Currency  
  
`00` ..... ∞  
  
`*p *P` ..... π Π  
  
`14 12 34` ... 1/4, 1/2, 3/4 etc.