

vi Commands

Below you can see some of the most important **vi** commands.

Starting, Exiting, Reading and Writing Files in vi

Command	Description
vi myfile	Start vi and edit myfile
vi -r myfile	Start vi and edit myfile in recovery mode from a system crash
:r file2<RET>	Read in file2 and insert at current position
:w<RET>	Write out the file
:w myfile<RET>	Write out the file to myfile
:w! file2<RET>	Overwrite file2
:x<RET> or :wq<RET>	Exit vi and write out modified file
:q<RET>	Quit vi
:q!<RET>	Quit vi even though modifications have not been saved

Changing Position in vi

Command	Description
arrow keys	Use the arrow keys for up, down, left and right; or:
j or <RET>	One line down
k	One line up
h or Backspace	One character left
l or Space	One character right
0	Move to beginning of line
\$	Move to end of line
w	Move to beginning of next word
b	Move back to beginning of preceding word
:0 <RET> or 1G	Move to beginning of file

Command	Description
:n <RET> or nG	Move to line n
:\$ <RET> or G	Move to last line in file
^f or PageDown	Move forward one page
^b or PageUp	Move backward one page
^ 	Refresh and center screen

Searching for Text in vi

Command	Description
/pattern<RET>	Search forward for pattern
n	Move to next occurrence of search pattern
string<RET>	Search backward for pattern
N	Move to previous occurrence of search pattern

Changing, Adding and Deleting Text in vi

Command	Description
a	Append text after cursor; stop upon Escape key
A	Append text at end of current line; stop upon Escape key
i	Insert text before cursor; stop upon Escape key
I	Insert text at beginning of current line; stop upon Escape key
o	Start a new line below current line, insert text there; stop upon Escape key
O	Start a new line above current line, insert text there; stop upon Escape key
r	Replace character at current position
R	Replace text starting with current position; stop upon Escape key
x	Delete character at current position

Command	Description
Nx	Delete N characters, starting at current position
dw	Delete the word at the current position
D	Delete the rest of the current line
dd	Delete the current line
Ndd or dNd	Delete N lines
u	Undo the previous operation
yy	Yank (cut) the current line and put it in buffer
Nyy or yNy	Yank (cut) N lines and put it in buffer
p	Paste at the current position the yanked line or lines from the buffer