

## VI/VIM Text Editor Commands

There are two modes in Vi/vim Text editor.

- **command mode**
- **insert mode.**

In the command mode, user can move around the file, replacing text, delete text, etc.

In the insert mode, user can insert text.

### Changing mode from one to another

Changing From command mode **to** insert mode, type **a/A/i/I/o/O**

Changing From insert mode **to** command mode, type **Esc** (escape key)

### Examples:

#### Opening a New File:

- Step 1 type **vim filename** (create a file)
- Step 2 type **i** ( switch to insert mode)
- Step 3 enter text
- Step 4 hit **Esc key** (switch back to command mode)
- Step 5 type **:wq** (write file and exit vim) or type **:q!** (Quit without save)

#### Editing the Existing File:

- Step 1 type **vim filename** (edit the existing file)
- Step 2 move around the file using **h/j/k/l** key or any appropriate command
  - h** Moves the cursor one character to the left
  - l** Moves the cursor one character to the right
  - k** Moves the cursor up one line
  - j** Moves the cursor down one line
  - nG** or **:n C** cursor goes to the specified (n) line  
(ex. **10G** goes to line 10)
- Step 3 **edit** required text (replace or delete or insert)
- Step 4 hit **Esc** key (exit from insert mode if you insert or replace text)
- Step 5 type **:wq**

## Some useful commands:

### Text Entry Commands:

- a** Append text following current cursor position
- A** Append text to the end of current line
- i** Insert text before the current cursor position
- I** Insert text at the beginning of the cursor line
- o** Open up a new line following the current line and add text there
- O** Open up a new line in front of the current line and add text there

The following commands are used only in the commands mode.

### Cursor Movement Commands:

- h** Moves the cursor one character to the left
- l** Moves the cursor one character to the right
- k** Moves the cursor up one line
- j** Moves the cursor down one line
- n** G or :n Cursor goes to the specified (n) line  
(ex. 10G goes to line 10)
- ^F (CTRL F)** Forward screenful
- ^B** Backward screenful
- ^f** One page forward
- ^b** One page backward
- ^U** Up half screenful
- ^D** Down half screenful
- \$** Move cursor to the end of current line
- 0 (zero)** Move cursor to the beginning of current line
- w** Forward one word
- b** Backward one word

### Exit Commands:

- :wq** Write file to disk and quit the editor
- :q!** Quit (Quit without saving)
- :q** Quit (Quit with warning on file has not been saved)
- ZZ** Save and quit editor (same as :wq)
- : 10,30 w myfile**  
e.g. write lines 10 through 30 into file named myfile.

### Text Deletion Commands:


x Delete character  
dw Delete word from cursor on  
db Delete word backward  
dd Delete line  
d\$ Delete to end of line  
d^ (d caret, not CTRL d) Delete to beginning of line  
**Yank** (has most of the options of delete)-- VI's **copy** command  
yy yank current line  
y\$ yank to end of current line from cursor  
yw yank from cursor to end of current word  
5yy yank, for example, 5 lines  
**Paste** (used after delete or yank to recover lines.)  
p paste below cursor  
P paste above cursor  
"2p paste from buffer 2 (there are 9)  
U Undo last change  
U Restore line  
J Join next line down to the end of the current line

### File Manipulation Commands:

:w Write workspace to original file  
:w file Write workspace to named file  
:e file Start editing a new file  
:r file Read contents of a file to the workspace

### Other Useful Commands:

Most commands can be repeated n times by typing a number, n, before the command. For example 10dd means delete 10 lines.

. Repeat last command  
cw Change current word to a new word  
r Replace one character at the cursor position  
R Begin overstrike or replace mode  use ESC key to exit  
:/ pattern Search forward for the pattern  
:? pattern Search backward for the pattern  
n (used after either of the 2 search commands above to continue to find next occurrence of the pattern.