

VI Editor

Super Useful Commands



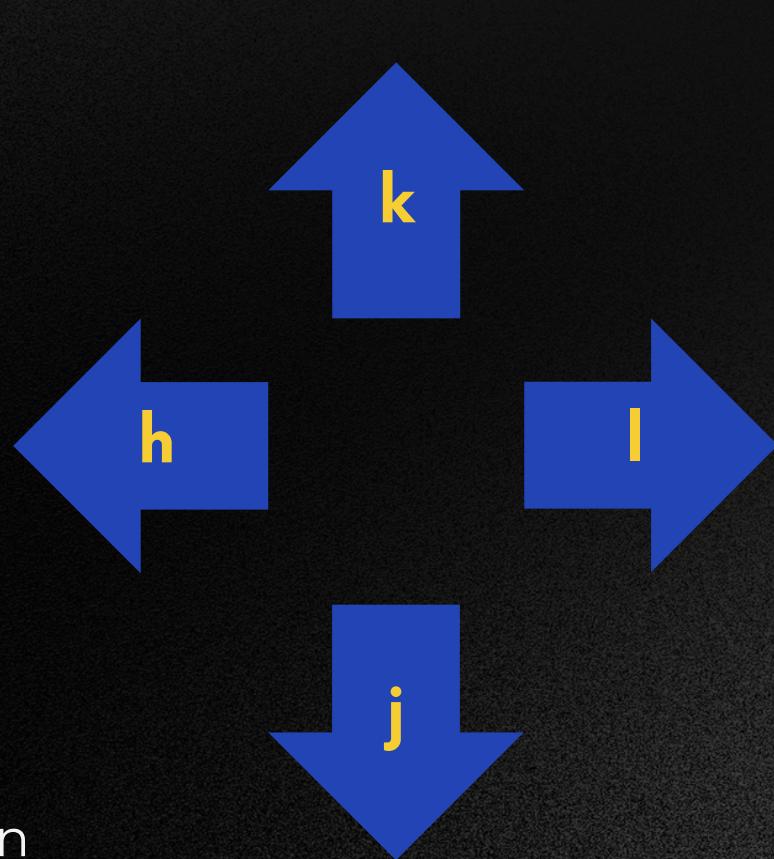
vi sample-file.txt ➔

Navigational Commands



h, j, k, l

These are the basic movement commands in VI, which move the cursor left, down, up, and right, respectively. They are used extensively for navigation and editing within a file.



Extra Tip -

- **2j** to move 2 lines down
- **2k** to move 2 lines up
- **2h** to move 2 steps left
- **2l** to move 2 steps right

~ Similarly you can use any number before the commands.

0 (zero)

This command moves the cursor to the beginning of the current line.

\$ (dollar sign)

This command moves the cursor to the end of the current line.



w

To move forward by word.

W

To move forward by word using whitespace as word boundary.

b or B

To move backward by word.

G

This command moves the cursor to the last line of the file.

gg

This command moves the cursor to the first line of the file.

**:line_number**

This command moves the cursor to a specific line number in the file.

Example -**To goto line number 50**Press ESC, then type **:50**

And Hit enter

```
-----  
sit amet. Massa placerat duis ultricies lacus  
e faucibus. Viverra ipsum nunc aliquet bibendum  
vestibulum lorem sed. Bibendum est ultricies  
:50
```

ctrl + b

to move a page screen back or “up”

ctrl + f

to move a page screen front or “down”



ctrl + u

to move a $\frac{1}{2}$ page screen up

ctrl + d

to move a $\frac{1}{2}$ page screen down

z + z

To move the current line you're on to the center of the screen.

z + t

To move the current line you're on to the top of the screen.



z + b

To move the current line you're on to the bottom of the screen.

Editing Commands



i

To enter insert mode at the cursor.

a

To enter insert mode after the cursor.

A

To enter insert mode at the end of the line.

**o**

To enter insert mode on a new line below the current line.

O

To enter insert mode on a new line above the current line.

x or delete

To delete the content from/after the cursor.

X

To delete content before the current cursor position.



dw

To delete a word.

dd

To delete the current line.

yy

To copy the current line.

p

To paste the last copied or deleted text **after** the cursor.



P

To paste the last copied or deleted text **before** the cursor.

Extra Tip -

- **2dd** to delete 2 lines from current line.
- **2yy** to copy 2 lines from current line.
- **2p** to paste last copied/deleted text 2 times after the current line.
- **2P** to paste last copied/deleted text 2 times before the current line.

~ **Similarly you can use any number before the commands.**

Search Commands



/pattern

To search for a pattern or string of characters within the file.

Example -

To search the word **Turpis**
 Press ESC, then type **/Turpis**
 And Hit enter

```
Vibh venenatis cras sed felis. Turpis egest  

vehicula ipsum a arcu cursus vitae congue. ¶  

Eget velit aliquet sagittis id consectetur.
```

```
Ante in nibh mauris cursus mattis molestie.  

Nulla pellentesque dignissim enim sit amet  

per malesuada. Varius quam quisque id diam.
```

```
/Turpis
```



#To search for special characters in the search pattern, you can use a backslash '\' before the character you want to search for.

Example -

To search the word **felis**.
 Press ESC, then type **/felis**.
 And Hit enter

See how we can search for . by putting a backslash before it.

```
Nibh venenatis cras sed felis. Turpis ege  

vehicula ipsum a arcu cursus vitae congue  

Eget velit aliquet sagittis id consectetur.
```

```
Ante in nibh mauris cursus mattis molestie.  

Nulla pellentesque dignissim enim sit amet  

per malesuada. Varius quam quisque id diam.
```

```
/felis\.
```

#To disable case sensitivity in the search pattern, you can use the "set ignorecase" command or the "set ic" abbreviation. Once this option is set, all search patterns will be case-insensitive. .

Example -

By default, to search the word **Eget**, we need to Press ESC, then type **/Eget** And Hit enter.

```
Vibh venenatis cras sed felis. Turp:  
vehicula ipsum a arcu cursus vitae  
Eget velit aliquet sagittis id con:  
:set ignorecase
```



But once we have run this '**:set ignorecase**' we can search '**Eget**' by **/eget**

n

To go to the next occurrence of the search pattern.

N

To go to the previous occurrence of the search pattern

Save & Quit Commands



:w

To save changes to the file.

:q

To quit the file if there are no unsaved changes.



:q!

To quit the file without saving changes.

:wq or **:x**

To save changes and quit the file.

Miscellaneous Commands



:u

To undo the last change.

:Ctrl + r

To redo the last change.

:set number

To display line numbers.

```
a ullamcorper malesuada. Va  
44  
45 In aliquam sem fringilla ut  
ibulum lectus mauris ultric  
morbi tristique. Eget egest  
Hac habitasse platea dictum  
:set number
```



:set nonumber

To hide line numbers.

```
In aliquam sem fringilla ut  
m lectus mauris ultrices er  
tique. Eget egestas purus vi  
latea dictumst vestibulum rt  
:set nonumber
```

:!command

To execute a shell command from within the VI editor.

Example-

Running **ps -ef** command from VI editor

```
In aliquam sem fringilla ut mort  
m lectus mauris ultrices eros in  
tique. Eget egestas purus vivent  
latea dictumst vestibulum rhonci  
:!ps -ef
```



UID	PID	PPID	C	S TIME	TTY	TIME	CMD
root	1	0	0	May04	?	00:00:01	/init
root	64	1	0	May04	?	00:00:00	/init
root	65	64	0	May04	?	00:00:00	/init
makalex	66	65	0	May04	pts/0	00:00:00	-bash
root	173	66	0	May04	pts/0	00:00:00	su mayankahuja
mayanka+	174	173	0	May04	pts/0	00:00:00	bash
mayanka+	287	174	0	May04	pts/0	00:00:00	vi sample-text-file.txt
mayanka+	295	287	0	00:18	pts/0	00:00:00	ps -ef

Press ENTER or type command to continue

:%s/old/new/g

To search and replace all occurrences of a pattern.

Example-

Replacing all occurrences of **Hello** with **Bye**

```
Hello quam Hello porttitor massa. Quis
ctus et netus et malesuada fames ac. P
illa phasellus faucibus scelerisque. C
et gravida cum. Volutpat sed cras Maha
```

Quam pellentesque nec nam aliquam sem.
isus in hendrerit gravida rutrum quisc
lorem mollis aliquam ut.

:%s/Hello/Bye/g

```
Bye quam Bye porttitor massa. Qui
et netus et malesuada fames ac.
phasellus faucibus scelerisque.
ravida cum. Volutpat sed cras Mah
```

When you want to replace text which has special characters use backslash before the special character.

To replace **Bye\$** with **Hello&**

```
Bye$ quam Bye$ porttitor massa. Qui:
us et netus et malesuada fames ac. I
la phasellus faucibus scelerisque. I
gravida cum. Volutpat sed cras Mah.
```

Quam pellentesque nec nam aliquam si
isus in hendrerit gravida rutrum qu:
lorem mollis aliquam ut.

:%s/Bye\\$/Hello\\$/g



:1,.d

To delete all lines above current line. (Current line will not get deleted, lines before that will.)

```
tus et netus et malesuada fames ac.  
lla phasellus faucibus scelerisque.  
t gravida cum. Volutpat sed cras or
```

```
:1,.d
```



:\$d

To delete all lines below the current line. (including current line)

```
Diam quam nulla porttitor massa. Quis vi  
tus et netus et malesuada fames ac. Metu  
lla phasellus faucibus scelerisque. Com  
t gravida cum. Volutpat sed cras ornare
```

```
:$d
```

:e!

To reload the opened file and discard all unsaved changes.

```
lla phasellus faucibus scelerisque  
gravida cum. Volutpat sed cras
```

:e!



:edit

To reload the opened file **without** discarding unsaved changes.

```
vitam quam nulla porttitor massa. Qui  
tus et netus et malesuada fames ac  
lla phasellus faucibus scelerisque  
gravida cum. Volutpat sed cras or
```

:edit

:g/^\$d

To delete all blank lines in the file.

:n1,n2 w filename

To save lines n1 to n2 to a new file.

Example -



Suppose we want to **copy first 1000 lines of the current file to a new text file**. New file will be created at the current location having 1000 lines.

```
attis ullamcorper velit sed ullamcorper mor  
ipsum a. Turpis egestas sed tempus urna ei  
t netus et malesuada fames ac. Commodo sed  
c et odio pellentesque.  
:1,1000 w new-file.txt
```

```
mayankahuja@DESKTOP-RGO03A4:~$ wc -l new-file.txt  
1000 new-file.txt
```

I hope it was helpful.

Keep
Learning!

mayank ahuja