

VIM COMMANDS

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1. Introduction

This document briefly explains the functionalities of different **vim** editor commands. We assume that the reader has some experience working with vim editor, and the aim here is to provide a cheat sheet for some important vim commands by logically organizing them.

2. Vim Modes

Vim traces its ancestry back to **vi**, vi in turn traces its ancestry back to a line editor called **ex**. The DNA of these early Unix text editors is preserved in modern vim. In accordance, vim preserves the modal architecture of vi, and exposes following modes.

2.1. Normal Mode

Normal mode is where you can run most of the vim commands. This is the default mode in which Vim starts up.

2.2. Insert Mode

Insert mode is where you insert i.e. write the text.

2.3. Visual Mode

Visual mode is where you visually select a bunch of text so that you can run a command/operation only on that part of the text.

2.4. Command-Line Mode

Command-Line mode is where you can run **ex** commands.

3. Normal Mode Commands

3.1. Quit Vim

ZZ	quit vim by saving changes if any
Q	quit vim and invoke ex editor

3.2. Move Curser

3.2.1. Move Around Character

l	move right of current character
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h	move left of current character
k	move upward of current character
j	move downward of current character

3.2.2. Move Around Word

w	move to begin of word in forward direction
W	move to begin of delimited word in forward direction
b	move to begin of word in backward direction
B	move to begin of delimited word in backward direction
e	move to end of word in forward direction
E	move to end of delimited word in forward direction
ge	move to end of word in backward direction
gE	move to end of delimited word in backward direction

3.2.3. Move Around Line

0	move to begin of current line
^	move to first non-blank character of current line
\$	move to end of current line
-	move to first non-blank character of previous line
+	move to first non-blank character of next line

3.2.4. Move Around Sentence

)	move to begin of sentence in forward direction
(move to begin of sentence in backward direction

3.2.5. Move Around Paragraph

}	move to begin of paragraph in forward direction
{	move to begin of paragraph in backward direction

3.2.6. Move Around Section

[[move to begin of section in forward direction
]]	move to begin of section in backward direction

3.2.7. Move Around Screen

H	move to head line of current screen
M	move to mid line of current screen
L	move to last line of current screen
C-f	move forward one screen
C-b	move backward one screen
C-d	move forward one-half screen
C-u	move backward one-half screen
z-ENTER	reposition current line to top of screen
z.	reposition current line to mid of screen
z-	reposition current line to bottom of screen

3.2.8. Miscellaneous Moves

gg	move to first line
G	move to last line

3.3. Search

3.3.1. Search Character

fx	search forward, for character x in current line
Fx	search backward, for character x in current line
tx	search forward, for character before x in current line
Tx	search backward, for character before x in current line
;	Repeat last f , F , t , or T
,	Reverse search direction of last f , F , t , or T

3.3.2. Search Word

*	search forward, for current word
#	search backward, for current word

3.3.3. Search Pattern

/pattern	search forward, for pattern
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?pattern	search backward, for pattern
n repeat	forward, previous search
N repeat	backward, previous search

3.3.4. Miscellaneous Searches

%	search for the match of current parenthesis, brace, or bracket
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3.4. Mark

3.4.1. Mark Position

mx	place a mark x at current curser postion
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3.4.2. Goto Marks

`x	goto to mark x
'x	goto to first non-blank character of line where mark x is placed

3.4.3. Goto Special Marks

`.	goto to position where last change occurred in current buffer
`"	goto to position where last exited current buffer

3.5. Edit

3.5.1. Replace

r	replace current character (by a single character)
~	reverse case of current character (and move right)

3.5.2. Delete

Delete Character

x	delete current character
X	delete previous character
dl	delete current character (same as x)
dh	delete previous character (same as X)

Delete Around Word Boundary

diw	delete current word
diW	delete current delimited word
dw	delete till begin of word in forward direction
dW	delete till begin of delimited word in forward direction
db	delete till begin of word in backward direction
dB	delete till begin of delimited word in backward direction
de	delete till end of word in forward direction
dE	delete till end of delimited word in forward direction
dge	delete till end of word in backward direction
dGE	delete till end of delimited word in backward direction

Delete Around Line Boundary

d0	delete till begin of current line
d^	delete till first non-blank character of current line
d\$	delete till end of current line
D	delete till end of current line (same as d\$)

Delete Line(s)

dd	delete current line
dk	delete line in upward direction
d-	delete line in upward direction (same as dk)
dj	delete line in downward direction
d+	delete line in downward direction (same as dj)

3.5.3. Yank (Copy)

Yank Character

yl	copy current character
yh	copy previous character

Yank Around Word Boundary

yiw	copy current word
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yiW	copy current delimited word
yw	copy till begin of word in forward direction
yW	copy till begin of delimited word in forward direction
yb	copy till begin of word backward direction
yB	copy till begin of delimited word backward direction
ye	copy till end of word in forward direction
yE	copy till end of delimited word in forward direction
yge	copy till end of word in backward direction
yGE	copy till end of delimited word in backward direction

Yank Around Line Boundary

y0	copy till begin of current line
y^	copy till first non-blank character of current line
y\$	copy till end of current line

Yank Line(s)

yy	copy current line
Y	copy current line (same as yy)
yk	copy line in upward direction
y-	copy line in upward direction (same as yk)
yj	copy line in downward direction
y+	copy line in downward direction (same as yj)

3.5.4. Put Deleted (or Yanked) Text

p	put recently deleted (or yanked) text after current character
P	put recently deleted (or yanked) text before current character

3.5.5. Miscellaneous Edits

.	repeat last edit command
u	undo last edit
U	restore recently edited line
C-r	redo last undo
J	join current and immediate next line

3.6. Switch To Insert Mode

3.6.1. Replace

R	start replacing text from current character
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3.6.2. Insert

i	start insertion before current curser
a	start insertion after current curser
I	start insertion before first non-blank character of current line
A	start insertion after last character of current line
o	start insertion in new line after current line
O	start insertion in new line before current line

3.6.3. Change (Delete And Then Insert)

Change Character

s	delete current character, and start insertion
cl	delete current character, and start insertion (same as s)
ch	delete previous character, and start insertion

Change Around Word

ciw	delete current word, and start insertion
ciW	delete current delimited word, and start insertion
cw	delete till begin of word in forward direction, and start insertion
cW	delete till begin of delimited word in forward direction, and start insertion
cb	delete till begin of word in backward direction, and start insertion
cB	delete till begin of delimited word in backward direction, and start insertion
ce	delete till end of word in forward direction, and start insertion
cE	delete till end of delimited word in forward direction, and start insertion
cge	delete till end of word in backward direction, and start insertion
cgE	delete till end of delimited word in backward direction, and start insertion

Change Around Line

c0	delete till begin of current line, and start insertion
c^	delete till first non-blank character of current line, and start insertion
c\$	delete till end of current line, and start insertion
C	delete till end of current line, and start insertion (same as c\$)

Change Line(s)

cc	delete current line, and start insertion
S	delete current line, and start insertion (same as cc)
ck	delete line in backward direction, and start insertion
c-	delete line in backward direction, and start insertion (same as ck)
cj	delete line in forward direction, and start insertion
c+	delete line in forward direction, and start insertion (same as cj)

3.7. Switch To Visual Mode

v	switch to character-wise selection of visual mode
V	switch to line-wise selection of visual mode
C-v	switch to block-wise selection of visual mode



Repetition of above commands more than once result in toggle between **visual** and **normal** mode

3.8. Switch To Command-Line Mode

:	switch to command-line mode
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4. Visual Mode Commands

4.1. Select

4.1.1. Character-wise Select

Select Character

l	select in forward direction
h	select in backward direction
k	select in upward direction

j	select in downward direction
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Select Around Word

iw	select current word
iW	select current delimited word
w	select till begin of word in forward direction
W	select till begin of delimited word in forward direction
b	select till begin of word in backward direction
B	select till begin of delimited word in backward direction
e	select till end of word in forward direction
E	select till end of delimited word in forward direction
ge	select till end of word in backward direction
gE	select till end of delimited word in backward direction

Select Around Line

O	select till begin of current line
^	select till first non-blank character of current line
\$	select till end of current line
-	select till begin of previous line
+	select till begin of next line

4.1.2. Line-wise Select

k	select in upward direction
j	select in downward direction

4.1.3. Block-wise Select

l	select in forward direction
h	select in backward direction
k	select in upward direction
j	select in downward direction

4.1.4. Miscellaneous Selects

gv	reselect last visual selection
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4.2. Move Around Selected Text

o	toggle (curser moving) free-end of visually selected text
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4.3. Edit Selected Text

d	delete selected text, and enter normal mode
c	delete selected text, and enter insert mode
y	yank (copy) selected text, and enter normal mode
u	convert characters in selected text to lower-case, and enter normal mode
U	convert characters in selected text to upper-case, and enter normal mode

5. Command-Line Mode Commands

5.1. Quit Vim

:x	quit vim, by saving changes if any (same as ZZ)
:wq	quit vim, by saving changes if any (same as ZZ)
:q	quit vim (fails if changes were made)
:q!	quit vim (discarding edits)

5.2. Save Changes

:w	save changes if any
:w!	save changes if any (overriding protection)
:w file	copy current file to file , and swith to edit file
:w! file	copy current file to file , and swith to edit file (overriding protection)