UNIX vi Editor Commands - Quick Reference Guide

File Open/Save/Quit

Command	Description
vi filename	Open or create file
vi	Open new file to be named later
vi -r filename	Recover crashed file
view filename	Open file read-only

Saving and Quitting

:w	Save changes (write buffer)
:w *filename*	Write buffer to named file
:wq	Save changes and quit vi
ZZ	Save changes and quit vi
:q!	Quit without saving changes

Operations

Show/hide Line Numbers

:set nu	Show line numbers for **all lines**
:set nonu	Hide numbers for **all line**

set/ignore case for search

:set ic	Searches should ignore case
:set noic	Searches should be case sensitive

go to line

G	Go to last line of file
1G	Go to first line of file
21G	Go to line 21

Moving Around

Moving Cursor in file

h	Move one character **left**
j	Move one line **down**
k	Move one line **up**
l	Move one character to **right**
w	Move one word **right**
W	Move one word (past punctuation) **right**
b	Move one word **left**
B	Move one word (past punctuation) **left**
e	Move to of current word **end**

Moving Cursor with keys

Enter key	Move down one line **down**
Backspace	Move left one character **left**
Spacebar	Move right one character **right**

Moving on Screen

H	Move to of screen **top**
M	Move to **middle** of screen
L	Move to **bottom** of screen

Moving on Screen using ctrl key combination

Ctrl-f	Page forward one screen **forward**
Ctrl-d	Scroll forward **one-half screen**
Ctrl-b	Page **backward** one screen
Ctrl-u	Scroll **backward one-half** screen

Editing

Insert Characters and Lines

a	Insert characters **right of cursor**
A	Insert characters **end of line**
i	Insert characters **left of cursor**
I	Insert characters **beginning of line**
o	Insert line **below cursor**
O	Insert line **above cursor**

Delete Text in file

x	Delete character **at the cursor**
X	Delete character to the **left of the cursor**
dw	Delete word (or part of word) to right of cursor
dd	**Delete line** containing the cursor
D	Delete part of line to **right of cursor**
dG	Delete to **end of file**
d1G	Delete from beginning of file **to cursor**
:1,4 d	Delete lines **1 to 4**

Inserting a File Into a File

:r *filename*	Insert (read) file after cursor
:34 r *filename*	Insert file after line 34

Copy and Move lines

yy	Yank or copy **current line**
4yy	Copy **4 lines**
Y	Yank or copy **line**
p	Put yanked or deleted line **below current line**
P	Put yanked or deleted line **above current line**
:1,2 co 3	**Copy** lines 1-2 and **put** after line 3
:4,6 m 7	**Move l**ines 4-6 and put **after** line 7

Text Change Operations

cc	Change **line**
cw	Change characters in a word or entire word **right of cursor**
C	Change from cursor **to end of line**
s	Substitute string for character(s) **from cursor forward**
r	Replace character with other character **at cursor**
r Return	Break line **at cursor**
J	Join to current line **below**
xp	Transpose character **cursor and character to right**
~	Change case of letter to uppercase or lowercase **at cursor**
u	Undo previous command
U	Undo all changes to current line
:u	Undo **previous line** command

Search and Replace

/*string*	Search for **string anywhere in file**
?*string*	Search **backward** for **string**
n	Find **next** occurrence of **string** in search direction
N	Find **previous** occurrence of **string** in search direction
:%s/*search*/s/*replace*/g	**Search** and **replace** in file