

VI Quick Reference



IN and OUT

vi	<i>filename</i> edit/create file
vi +n	<i>filename</i> edit file, start at line <i>n</i>
:wq	save and quit vi
:wq!	Save and quit vi, force write of file
:q!	quit vi and ignore changes
:q	quit vi, inform if any changes have been made
:w	save file, don't exit
ZZ	save and exit

MOVING

h <backspace>	move left one character
l <space>	move right one character
j -	move down one line
k +	move up one line
<CTRL B>	back one page
<CTRL F>	forward one page
G	move to end of file
:n<CR>	move to line <i>n</i> of file
w	move right one word
b	move left to beginning of word
^	beginning of line
\$	end of line

SEARCHING

/	<i>pattern</i> search forward through file for <i>pattern</i>
?	<i>pattern</i> search backward through file for <i>pattern</i>
n	repeat search in current direction
N	repeat search in opposite direction
:n,ms/old/new/g	perform a search and replace starting at line <i>n</i> and ending at line <i>m</i> looking for <i>old</i> and replace with <i>new</i> and perform it across all occurrences on the line and throughout the file



TEXT INSERTION and DELETION

i	insert text before cursor
I	insert text from beginning of line
a	insert text after cursor
A	insert text at end of line
o	open new line below cursor line
O	open new line above cursor line
R	overtyping, use <ESC> to leave

TEXT MODIFICATION

x	delete character at cursor (like delete)
X	delete character before cursor (like backspace)
dd	delete entire line
dw	delete word
cw	change word
yy	copy line
yw	copy word
p	paste buffer below current cursor line
P	paste buffer above current cursor line
r	replace single character
J	join line below current cursor line to current line

GENERAL

Ncmd	do vi command <i>cmd</i> <i>N</i> times
.	repeat last command
u	undo/redo last action
~	change case of character
<ESC>	leave or cancel previous insert/action