



NeoVim commands and shortcuts cheatsheet

Conventions in this cheatsheet

All Vim commands or shortcuts exposed in this cheatsheet are written in monospaced font, like `/ {pattern}` for searching for a pattern over the current file.

Also all Vim commands or shortcuts are accompanied by the logo of the Vim mode you need to be in order to use that command/shortcut. For example, if you see the shortcut “ **NORMAL** `gj`”, this means that to use this shortcut, you need to enter into normal mode, and then, you press the keys “`g`” and “`j`” (one after another) on your keyboard.

When you need to hold down a sequence of keys together, we will use the plus sign (+). So, for example, the shortcut `<Space> + f` means: “press and hold down the `<Space>` key, then, press the `f` key”.

When you need to provide some input to the command/shortcut, like a pattern to search for, or a number of lines to jump, then this input will be surrounded by curly brackets (`{` and `}`). So if you see `{pattern}` inside a shortcut/command, this means that you need to type a pattern in the place of this `{pattern}`.

Vim modes

- Enter visual mode: being in **NORMAL** mode, press `v`, and then, press any key that moves the cursor, such as the arrow keys, or the keys `w`, `b`, `e` and `{`
- Enter command mode: **NORMAL** `:`
- Enter insert mode: **NORMAL** `i`
- Go back into normal mode: **INSERT** **VISUAL** **COMMAND** `<Esc>`

Quit Neovim | Create, Save and Close files

- Save the current file: **COMMAND** `:w`

- Create a new text file: **COMMAND** `:e {name of the new file}`, then, use the save command **COMMAND** `:w` to save this new file into your system.
- Close everything (all active windows), and then, Quit/Exit NeoVim: **COMMAND** `:qa`
- Close the current window (this works for any kind of window in NeoVim, e.g. a plugin window, a tab or a splitted window). However, if you have only one window active, then, this command will actually Quit/Exit NeoVim: **COMMAND** `:q`

Move cursor

- Move left **NORMAL** `h` or the left arrow `<Left arrow>`
- Move down **NORMAL** `j` or the down arrow `<Down arrow>`
- Move up **NORMAL** `k` or the up arrow `<Up arrow>`
- Move right **NORMAL** `l` or the right arrow `<Right arrow>`
- Jump to the beginning of the next word **NORMAL** `w`
- Jump to the end of the next word **NORMAL** `e`
- Jump to the beginning of the current/previous word **NORMAL** `b`
- Jump to the start of the current line **NORMAL** `0`
- Jump to the first non-blank character of the current line **NORMAL** `_`
- Jump to the end of the current line **NORMAL** `$`
- Jump to previous line that is blank **NORMAL** `{`
- Jump to next line that is blank **NORMAL** `}`
- Jump to the first line of the current file: **NORMAL** `gg`
- Jump to the last line of the current file: **NORMAL** `G`

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Search and replace

If you only type `NORMAL /{pattern}`, then NeoVim will just highlight the matches found in the current file. However, if type `NORMAL /{pattern}` and then press Enter, NeoVim will move the cursor to the first match found in the file. You can also press the `n` key over and over again to navigate through all matches found across the file.

- Search for a pattern over the next lines: `NORMAL /{pattern}`
- Search for a pattern over the previous lines: `NORMAL ?{pattern}`
- Search and replace the first occurrence of a pattern over the current line:
`COMMAND :s/{pattern}/{replacement}`
- Search and replace the first occurrence of a pattern over all lines: `COMMAND :%s/{pattern}/{replacement}`
- Search and replace all occurrences of a pattern over the current line: `COMMAND :%s/{pattern}/{replacement}/g`
- Search and replace all occurrences of a pattern over all lines: `COMMAND :%s/{pattern}/{replacement}/g`

Comment lines

- Comment current line: `NORMAL gcc` or `gbc`
- Comment multiple lines at once: being in `NORMAL` mode, press `v`, then, move the cursor in any possible way to enter `VISUAL` mode. Then, if you do enter visual mode, start to move the cursor to mark the lines you want to comment. After you marked the lines you want, you can type `gc` or `gb` to comment them.

Copy and paste text

- Copy (or *yank*) text: `NORMAL y`
- Paste copied text: `NORMAL p`
- Copy current line: `NORMAL yy`
- Copy multiple lines at once: being in `NORMAL` mode, press `v`, then, move the cursor in any possible way to enter `VISUAL` mode. Then, if you do enter visual mode, start to move the cursor to mark the lines you want to copy. After you marked the lines you want, you can type `y` to copy them.

Insert mode, start writing new code

- Enter insert mode before the cursor: `NORMAL i`
- Enter insert mode at the beginning of the current line: `NORMAL I`
- Enter insert mode after the cursor (append): `NORMAL a`
- Enter insert mode at the end of the current line (append): `NORMAL A`
- Create a new line below the current line, move the cursor to this new line, and then, enter insert mode: `NORMAL o`
- Create a new line above the current line, move the cursor to this new line, and then, enter insert mode: `NORMAL O`

Indentation and code style

- Reindent the entire file: `NORMAL gg=G`
- Reformat the entire file using the code style of by the LSP¹: `COMMAND :Format`
- Add more indentation (i.e. move right) to the current line `INSERT <Ctrl> + t`

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- Subtract indentation (i.e. move left) of the current line **INSERT** <Ctrl> + d

Delete content

- Delete current line **NORMAL** dd
- Delete current word **NORMAL** bdw
- Delete previous word **NORMAL** db
- Delete next word **NORMAL** wdw
- Mark multiple lines and delete them at once: being in **NORMAL** mode, press v, then, move the cursor in any possible way to enter **VISUAL** mode. Then, if you do enter visual mode, start to move the cursor to mark the lines you want to delete. After you marked the lines you want, just press d to delete them.

Opening multiple files across different tabs

You can have multiple files open at the same time in NeoVim. You just have to open these files in different tabs.

- Open the file in a new tab: **COMMAND** :tabnew {path to file}
- Go to next tab: **COMMAND** :tabn
- Go to previous tab: **COMMAND** :tabp
- Close the current tab: **COMMAND** :tabc or :tabclose

¹This command will use the current LSP to reformat your source code, so it conforms with the code style recommended by this LSP. For example, if you are editing a C source file, you are likely using the clang LSP. Then, this :Format command would apply the code style recommended by the clang LSP over the current file

Useful commands from the Telescope plugin

The Telescope [NeoVim plugin](#) is an extremely useful plugin, and you should have it installed in your NeoVim. It provides many useful shortcuts for searching files and patterns across your project.

- List all shortcuts activated by Telescope (this is very useful when you don't remember the shortcut you are looking for): **COMMAND** :Telescope keymaps
- Search for a file in your current working directory: **NORMAL** <Space>sf
- Search for a file in your "recently opened files" list²: **NORMAL** <Space>?
- Search for all occurrences of a pattern across your current working directory (or project): **NORMAL** <Space>sw or <Space>sg

Package Manager (Mason)

[Mason](#) is the most popular package manager for NeoVim, and is the most effective way of installing NeoVim plugins.

- Opens the Mason package manager: **COMMAND** :Mason
- Search for a specific package/plugin: inside Mason use the normal Vim search command /{pattern}.
- Install a specific package/plugin: if the cursor is over the package, press i to install it.

²This is an interesting shortcut because this "recently opened files" also contains files that are outside of your current working directory (or your current project).