Introduction to vim

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The Most Important Command

Before we start, let's settle down the age-old question:

The Most Important Command

The most common exit and save commands:

Command	Keys
Simple exit	`:` `q` `↵`
Save	`:` `w` `↵`
Save and exit	`:` `w` `q` `↵`
Exit without save	`:` `q` `!` `↵`
Save and override	`:` `w` `!` `↵`
Command history	`q` `:` `↵`

Just to confuse

Vim Modes

Vim has three **modes**:

Name	Function	Key(s)
Normal	navigation and text editing	Default/`Esc`
Insert	inserting text	`i`
Normal	highlighting text/rows/blocks	`v`/`V`/`Ctrl`+`v`

Vim Grammer

Generaly speaking, vim commands can be structure in different forms (here refered to as "rules" (CITE)).

The most simple rule is

$$\boxed{\text{command}} = \boxed{\text{operator}} \ \boxed{\text{motion(s)}}$$
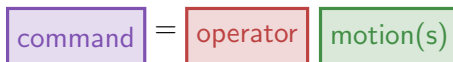
Example

Command	Syntax		Keys
Delete word	del	word	d w
Copy until 'A'	copy	until 'A'	y f A

Vim Grammer

Operators and motions can be preceded by repetitions, i.e.

$$\boxed{\text{command}} = \boxed{n}\;\boxed{\text{operator}}\;\boxed{m}\;\boxed{\text{motion(s)}}$$

Example

Command	Syntax			Keys
3× delete word	3	del	word	3 d w
Delete 3 words	del	3	word	d 3 w

List of Operators

Main vim operator keys:

Key	Func.	Key	Func.
y	copy	c	change (delete + insert)
d	delete	x	delete single
p	paste	P	paste before
u	undo	Ctrl + r	redo
.	repeat action	;	repat motion

List of Motions

Main vim motion (navigation) keys:

Key	Func.	Key	Func.
w	next word	b	beginning of word
e / g e	end of word / prev	n	next find
n	next find	N	prev find
f α	next α	F α	prev α
t α	before next α	T α	after prev α

List of Motions

Some motions aren't actually relevant to operators and repetitions:

Key	Func.	Key	Func.
h / ←	left	j / ↓	down
k / ↑	up	l / →	right
0	start of line	$	end of line
^	start of line (text)	%	matched paranthesis
H	top of view	L	bottom of view
M	middle of view	L	bottom of view
Ctrl + y	scroll screen up	Ctrl + e	scroll screen down

Modifiers

The following two keys are **Modifiers**:

Key	Meaning
i	Inside an object
a	Around an object

Example

Command	Keys
Copy around '[]'	y a [
Delete inside '{}'	d i {

The Command Buffer

Marks

Points in a file can be marked for later use. There are 52 possible custom marks: all lowercase letters $+$ all uppercase letters.

Adding a mark *a* is done by

<div align="center">

`m` `a`

</div>

Navigating to a mark *a* is done by `` ` `` `a` .

The combination `'` `a` will jump to the start of the line where the mark is.

Macros

A **macro** is a recording of a set of operations, which can be repeated as many times as needed.

A macro *a* is recorded by typing `q` `a` [set of operations] `q` .

A macro *a* is called by `@` `a` .

Find, Search & Replace, Regex

Splits