

vi

My take on [EmacsVsVi](#) (for text editing, ignoring all the additional stuff Emacs can do) has always been that Emacs is easier to *learn*, but Vi is easier to *use*. A modeless tool is easier to get a handle on, because there's never any question as to what state it's in. But it means you need a lot more knobs and buttons to get everything done, making it necessarily bigger and klunkier. A tool with modes is harder to learn, but once you get the hang of it, can be quicker to use if well designed. --[StefanVorkoetter](#) (who uses Vi after a brief stint with Emacs in the late 80's).

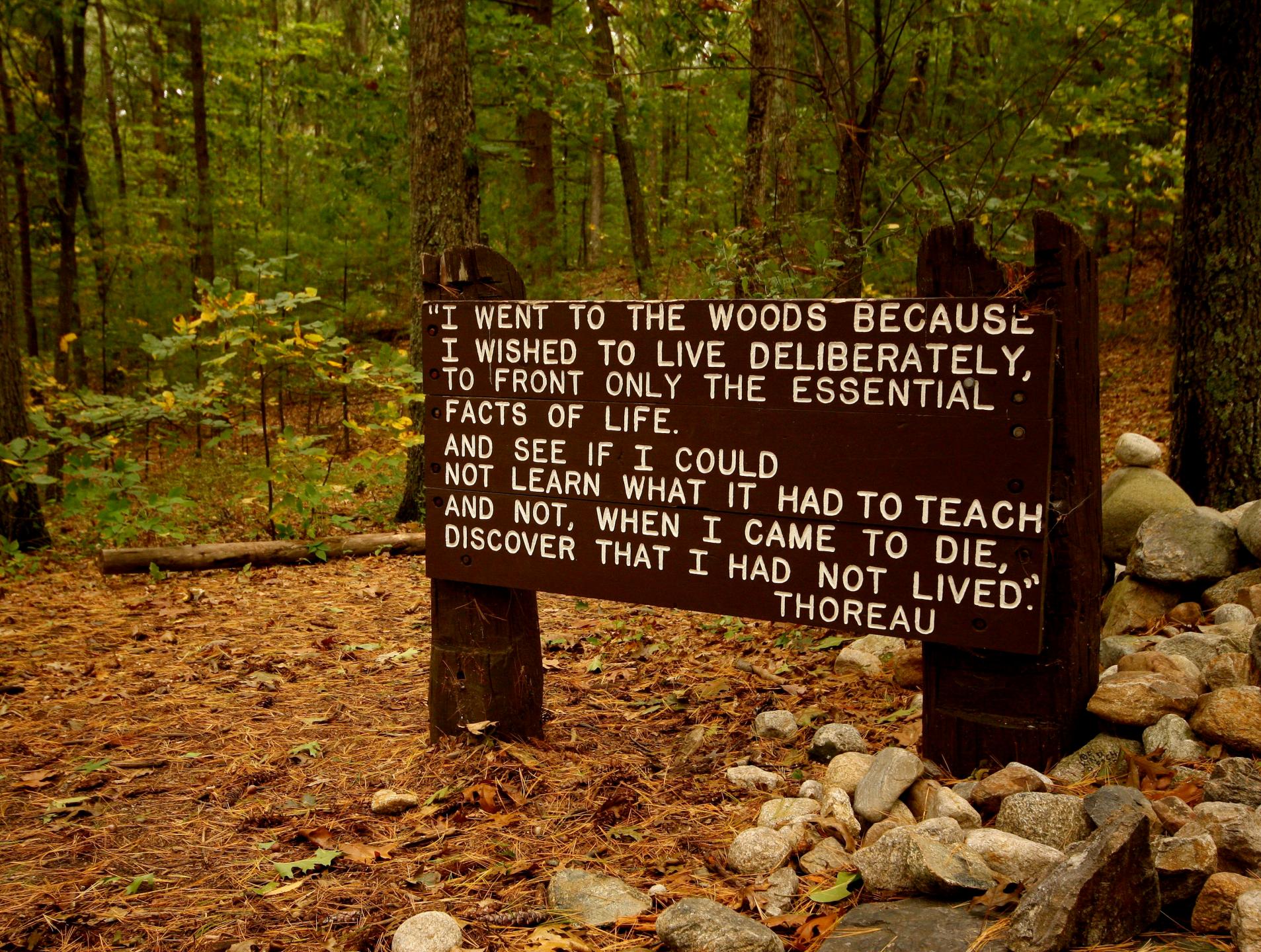
Emacs



Do you need to bring lots of unnecessary items camping?

If my text editor doesn't come with a mail client, a web browser, and a clock, I'll never survive!

vi



vi seems challenging, but it's
actually more natural and
simple than emacs

What's the real difference?

Emacs: One mode

- Text and commands must be different combinations of keys
 - Press modifier key every time
 - Commands can be complicated
 - Move your hands a lot
 - Easy to learn, hard to mess up, but annoying and inefficient to use

vi: Two modes

- Text and commands can use the same alphanumeric keys
 - Press escape or i once
 - Commands are simple and intuitive
 - Rarely move your hands
 - Until you get used to modality, you'll be a little frustrated, but the end result is a better experience

Insert Mode

Press the i key to start
INSERTING text

Move around with arrow
keys

```
nomascus — VimcommandsSimple.txt (~) - VIM - vim - 79x43
1 you should use vi, because it's simpler
2 and lighter
3 and cooler
4
5 MODES
6
7 i           insert mode
8 escape       command mode
9
10 CUTTING AND PASTING
11
12 dd          delete (cut) line
13 cc          cut line
14 yy          yank line (copy)
15 yw          yank word
16 p           paste into next line
17 P           paste at cursor
18 u           undo
19 ctrl r      redo
20
21 MOVING AROUND
22
23 0           beginning of line
24 $           end of line
25 shift arrow key beginning/end of word
26 :number      move cursor to the (number) line
27 arrow key    move up, down, left, right
28 {
29 }
30
31 SAVING AND EXITING
32
33 :w           write file
34 :q           quit vi
35 :q!
36 :wq          quit without saving
37
38 OTHER
39
40 :set nu      add number lines
~  
~  
-- INSERT --
```

Command Mode

Press the escape key to
leave insert mode

Cut & paste
Move
Search
Save & exit

Commands are simple and
intuitive

You don't have to constantly
press the control key

There's also a video game to help you learn

