

# Vim Cheat Sheet

## Global

**:h[elp] keyword** - open help for keyword

**:sav[eas] file** - save file as

**:clo[se]** - close current pane

**:ter[minal]** - open a terminal window

**⌘** - open man page for word under the cursor

**Tip** Run **vimtutor** in a terminal to learn the first Vim commands.

## Cursor movement

**h** - move cursor left

**j** - move cursor down

**k** - move cursor up

**l** - move cursor right

**H** - move to top of screen

**M** - move to middle of screen

**L** - move to bottom of screen

**w** - jump forwards to the start of a word

**W** - jump forwards to the start of a word (words can contain punctuation)

**e** - jump forwards to the end of a word

**E** - jump forwards to the end of a word (words can contain punctuation)

**b** - jump backwards to the start of a word

**B** - jump backwards to the start of a word (words can contain punctuation)

**%** - move to matching character (default supported pairs: '()', '{}', '[]' - use `:h matchpairs` in vim for more info)

**0** - jump to the start of the line

**^** - jump to the first non-blank character of the line

**\$** - jump to the end of the line

**g\_** - jump to the last non-blank character of the line

**gg** - go to the first line of the document

**G** - go to the last line of the document

**5gg** or **5G** - go to line 5

**fx** - jump to next occurrence of character x

**tx** - jump to before next occurrence of character x

**Fx** - jump to previous occurrence of character x

**Tx** - jump to after previous occurrence of character x

**;** - repeat previous f, t, F or T movement

**,** - repeat previous f, t, F or T movement, backwards

**}** - jump to next paragraph (or function/block, when editing code)

**{** - jump to previous paragraph (or function/block, when editing code)

**zz** - center cursor on screen

**Ctrl + e** - move screen down one line (without moving cursor)

**Ctrl + y** - move screen up one line (without moving cursor)

**Ctrl + b** - move back one full screen

**Ctrl + f** - move forward one full screen

**Ctrl + d** - move forward 1/2 a screen

**Ctrl + u** - move back 1/2 a screen

**Tip** Prefix a cursor movement command with a number to repeat it. For example, **4j** moves down 4 lines.

## Insert mode - inserting/appending text

**i** - insert before the cursor

**I** - insert at the beginning of the line

**a** - insert (append) after the cursor

**A** - insert (append) at the end of the line

**o** - append (open) a new line below the current line

**O** - append (open) a new line above the current line

**ea** - insert (append) at the end of the word

**Ctrl** + **h** - delete the character before the cursor during insert mode

**Ctrl** + **w** - delete word before the cursor during insert mode

**Ctrl** + **j** - begin new line during insert mode

**Ctrl** + **t** - indent (move right) line one shiftwidth during insert mode

**Ctrl** + **d** - de-indent (move left) line one shiftwidth during insert mode

**Ctrl** + **n** - insert (auto-complete) next match before the cursor during insert mode

**Ctrl** + **p** - insert (auto-complete) previous match before the cursor during insert mode

**Esc** - exit insert mode

## Editing

**r** - replace a single character

**J** - join line below to the current one with one space in between

**gJ** - join line below to the current one without space in between

**gwip** - reflow paragraph

**g~** - switch case up to motion

**gu** - change to lowercase up to motion

**gU** - change to uppercase up to motion

**cc** - change (replace) entire line

**C** - change (replace) to the end of the line

**c\$** - change (replace) to the end of the line

**ciw** - change (replace) entire word

**cw** - change (replace) to the end of the word

**s** - delete character and substitute text

**S** - delete line and substitute text (same as cc)

**xp** - transpose two letters (delete and paste)

**u** - undo

**U** - restore (undo) last changed line

**Ctrl + r** - redo

**.** - repeat last command

## Marking text (visual mode)

**v** - start visual mode, mark lines, then do a command (like y-yank)

**V** - start linewise visual mode

**o** - move to other end of marked area

**Ctrl + v** - start visual block mode

**O** - move to other corner of block

**aw** - mark a word

**ab** - a block with ()

**aB** - a block with {}

**at** - a block with <> tags

**ib** - inner block with ()

**iB** - inner block with {}

**it** - inner block with <> tags

**Esc** - exit visual mode

**Tip** Instead of **b** or **B** one can also use **(** or **{** respectively.

## Visual commands

**>** - shift text right

**<** - shift text left

**y** - yank (copy) marked text

**d** - delete marked text

**~** - switch case

**u** - change marked text to lowercase

**U** - change marked text to uppercase

## Registers

**:reg[isters]** - show registers content

**"xy** - yank into register x

**"xp** - paste contents of register x

**"+y** - yank into the system clipboard register

**"+p** - paste from the system clipboard register

**Tip** Registers are being stored in ~/.viminfo, and will be loaded again on next restart of vim.

**Tip** Special registers:

- 0** - last yank
- "** - unnamed register, last delete or yank
- %** - current file name
- #** - alternate file name
- \*** - clipboard contents (X11 primary)
- +** - clipboard contents (X11 clipboard)
- /** - last search pattern
- :** - last command-line
- .** - last inserted text
- - last small (less than a line) delete
- =** - expression register
- \_** - black hole register

## Marks and positions

**:marks** - list of marks

**ma** - set current position for mark A

**`a** - jump to position of mark A

**y`a** - yank text to position of mark A

**`0** - go to the position where Vim was previously exited

**`"** - go to the position when last editing this file

**`.** - go to the position of the last change in this file

**``** - go to the position before the last jump

**:ju[mps]** - list of jumps

**Ctrl + i** - go to newer position in jump list

**Ctrl + o** - go to older position in jump list

**:changes** - list of changes

**g,** - go to newer position in change list

**g;** - go to older position in change list

**Ctrl + ]** - jump to the tag under cursor

**Tip** To jump to a mark you can either use a backtick ( **`** ) or an apostrophe ( **'** ). Using an apostrophe jumps to the beginning (first non-black) of the line holding the mark.

## Macros

**qa** - record macro a

**q** - stop recording macro

**@a** - run macro a

**@@** - rerun last run macro

## Cut and paste

**yy** - yank (copy) a line

**2yy** - yank (copy) 2 lines

**yw** - yank (copy) the characters of the word from the cursor position to the start of the next word

**y\$** - yank (copy) to end of line

**p** - put (paste) the clipboard after cursor

**P** - put (paste) before cursor

**dd** - delete (cut) a line

**2dd** - delete (cut) 2 lines

**dw** - delete (cut) the characters of the word from the cursor position to the start of the next word

**D** - delete (cut) to the end of the line

**d\$** - delete (cut) to the end of the line

**x** - delete (cut) character

## Indent text

**>>** - indent (move right) line one shiftwidth

**<<** - de-indent (move left) line one shiftwidth

**>%** - indent a block with () or {} (cursor on brace)

**>ib** - indent inner block with ()

**>at** - indent a block with <> tags

**3==** - re-indent 3 lines

**=%** - re-indent a block with () or {} (cursor on brace)

**=iB** - re-indent inner block with {}

**gg=G** - re-indent entire buffer

**lp** - paste and adjust indent to current line

## Exiting

**:w** - write (save) the file, but don't exit

**:w !sudo tee %** - write out the current file using sudo

**:wq** or **:x** or **ZZ** - write (save) and quit

**:q** - quit (fails if there are unsaved changes)

**:q!** or **ZQ** - quit and throw away unsaved changes

**:wqa** - write (save) and quit on all tabs

## Search and replace

**/pattern** - search for pattern

**?pattern** - search backward for pattern

**\vpattern** - 'very magic' pattern: non-alphanumeric characters are interpreted as special regex symbols (no escaping needed)

**n** - repeat search in same direction

**N** - repeat search in opposite direction

**:%s/old/new/g** - replace all old with new throughout file

**:%s/old/new/gc** - replace all old with new throughout file with confirmations

**:noh[**lsearch**]** - remove highlighting of search matches

## Search in multiple files

**:vim[**grep**] /pattern/ {`{file}`}** - search for pattern in multiple files

e.g. **:vim[**grep**] /foo/ \*\*/\***

**:cn[**ext**]** - jump to the next match

**:cp[**revious**]** - jump to the previous match

**:cope[**n**]** - open a window containing the list of matches

**:ccl[**ose**]** - close the quickfix window

## Tabs

**:tabnew** or **:tabnew {page.words.file}** - open a file in a new tab

**Ctrl + wT** - move the current split window into its own tab

**gt** or **:tabn[**ext**]** - move to the next tab

**gT** or **:tabp[**revious**]** - move to the previous tab

**#gt** - move to tab number #

**:tabm[**ove**] #** - move current tab to the #th position (indexed from 0)



**:tabc[lose]** - close the current tab and all its windows

**:tabo[nly]** - close all tabs except for the current one

**:tabdo** command - run the command on all tabs (e.g. **:tabdo q** - closes all opened tabs)

## Working with multiple files

**:e[dit] file** - edit a file in a new buffer

**:bn[ext]** or **:bn** - go to the next buffer

**:bp[revious]** or **:bp** - go to the previous buffer

**:bd[elete]** - delete a buffer (close a file)

**:b#** - go to a buffer by #

**:b file** - go to a buffer by file

**:ls** - list all open buffers

**:sp[lit] file** - open a file in a new buffer and split window

**:vs[plit] file** - open a file in a new buffer and vertically split window

**:vert[ical] ba[ll]** - edit all buffers as vertical windows

**:tab ba[ll]** - edit all buffers as tabs

**Ctrl + ws** - split window

**Ctrl + wv** - split window vertically

**Ctrl + ww** - switch windows

**Ctrl + wq** - quit a window

**Ctrl + wx** - exchange current window with next one

**Ctrl + w=** - make all windows equal height & width

**Ctrl + wh** - move cursor to the left window (vertical split)

**Ctrl + wl** - move cursor to the right window (vertical split)

**Ctrl + wj** - move cursor to the window below (horizontal split)

**Ctrl + wk** - move cursor to the window above (horizontal split)

# Diff

**zf** - manually define a fold up to motion

**zd** - delete fold under the cursor

**za** - toggle fold under the cursor

**zo** - open fold under the cursor

**zc** - close fold under the cursor

**zr** - reduce (open) all folds by one level

**zm** - fold more (close) all folds by one level

**zi** - toggle folding functionality

**]c** - jump to start of next change

**[c** - jump to start of previous change

**do** or **:diffg[et]** - obtain (get) difference (from other buffer)

**dp** or **:diffpu[t]** - put difference (to other buffer)

**:diffthis** - make current window part of diff

**:dif[fupdate]** - update differences

**:diff[off]** - switch off diff mode for current window

**Tip** The commands for folding (e.g. **za**) operate on one level. To operate on all levels, use uppercase letters (e.g. **zA**).

**Tip** To view the differences of files, one can directly start Vim in diff mode by running **vimdiff** in a terminal. One can even set this as **git difftool**.

## Additional Resources

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## About the vim cheat sheet

This project aims to be one of the most accessible vim guides available. We made sure to support mobile, desktop, and other [languages](#).

You can read about how to contribute (and help improve) by viewing our [README](#) . There you can see how to set up this project, or how to contribute a new language. Here is a big thank you to our [contributors!](#)

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## Other places to find this document

This document was embedded in [DuckDuckGo](#) .

## More resources

Interactive Vim tutorial: [Open Vim](#)

Vim quick reference from Vim help pages: [quickref.txt](#)

List of all Vim ex ( : ) commands: [ex-cmd-index](#)

