

Vi also has a safety mechanism that prevents you from aborting accidentally if you have modified the file (buffer) in any way. The following message is typical when you try to do so:

No write since last change (:quit ! overrides)

If the buffer has been changed and you still want to abandon the changes, then use

`:q!` Ignore all changes made and quits

4) Writing Selected Lines :

The `:w` command is an abbreviated way of executing the ex Mode instruction `:1,$w`. `w` can be prefixed by one or two addresses separated by a comma. The command

`:10,50w n2words.pl` writes 41 lines to another file

Saves lines 10 through 50 to the file `n2words.pl`. you can save a single line as well:

`:5w n2words.pl` writes 5th line to another file

There are two symbols used with `w` that have special significance- the dot and `$`.

- The dot represents the current line.
- The `$` represents the last line of the file.

`:.w tempfile` – saves current line (where cursor is positioned)

`:$w tempfile` – saves the last line

`:$w tempfile` – saves current line through end

If `tempfile` exists and is writable by you, vi issues yet another warning:

“tempfile” File exists – use “`w! tempfile`” to overwrite

5) Escape to the UNIX shell (`:sh` and `[ctrl-z]`) :

You need to make a temporary escape to the shell to run the `cc` command. There are two ways; the first method is to use the ex Mode command, `:sh` :