



# Vim Editor

## Desk Reference

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### Append Operations

**a** – append text after cursor  
**A** – append text at the end of the line  
**i** – insert text before the cursor  
**I** – insert text at the beginning of the line

**o** – open a new line below the cursor  
**O** – open a new line above the cursor

### Change Text

**R** – overwrite characters on line  
**r** – replace one letter only  
**s** – substitute string for character  
**xp** – transpose/switch letters  
**~** – change letter case/capitalization

**cw** – change word  
**ncw** – change *n* words

**J** – join current line and next line

### Move Operations

**h** – move cursor left (equivalent to left arrow)  
**j** – move cursor down (equivalent to down arrow)  
**k** – move cursor up (equivalent to up arrow)  
**l** – move cursor right (equivalent to right arrow)

**w** – move forward one word  
**W** – move forward one word past punctuation  
**b** – move backward one word  
**B** – move backward one word past punctuation  
**e** – move to end of current word  
**E** – move to end of current word past punctuation

**C** – move to end of line  
**G** – go to last line  
**nG** – go to *n*th line  
**:n** – go to line *n*  
**:n<sub>1</sub>, n<sub>2</sub>m n<sub>3</sub>** – move lines *n<sub>1</sub>* to *n<sub>2</sub>*; insert at line *n<sub>3</sub>*

**H** – move to top of screen  
**M** – move to middle of screen  
**L** – move to bottom of screen

**CTRL-f** – page forward one-screen  
**CTRL-d** – scroll down one-half screen  
**CTRL-b** – page back up one screen  
**CTRL-u** – scroll up one-half screen

### Copy & Insert Text

**nyy** – “yank” *n* lines (copy)  
**Y** – yank current line  
**P** – put yanked/deleted lines(s) below current  
**p** – put yanked/deleted lines(s) above current

**:n<sub>1</sub>, n<sub>2</sub>co n<sub>3</sub>** – copy lines *n<sub>1</sub>* to *n<sub>2</sub>*; insert at line *n<sub>3</sub>*  
**:r file** – insert *file* below the current line  
**:n r file** – insert *file* after line *n*

### Delete Operations

**x** – delete character at cursor  
**X** – delete character left of cursor

**dw** – delete word to right of cursor  
**ndw** – delete *n* number of words

**D** – delete line to right of cursor  
**dd** – delete line containing the cursor  
**ndd** – delete *n* lines  
**:n<sub>1</sub>, n<sub>2</sub>d** – delete line *n<sub>1</sub>* through *n<sub>2</sub>*

**dG** – delete to end of current file

### Search Operations

**/string** – search forward for *string*  
**?string** – search backward for *string*  
**n** – find next occurrence of cursor’s word  
**N** – find most previous occurrence of word

**:s/this/that** – change first occurrence of *this* to *that*  
**:s/this/that/g** – change line occur. of *this* to *that*  
**:%s/this/that** – of all lines, change first occurrence  
**:%s/this/that/g** – of all lines, change all occurrences

### Saving

**:w** – save changes in current file  
**:w file** – save with name *file*  
**:w! file** – overwrite existing file *file*  
**:wq** – save changes and quit vi  
**:q!** – quit without saving

### General

**u** – undo previous command  
**U** – undo all changes to current line  
**:u** – undo previous last line command

### Control Edit Commands

**:set nu** – show line numbers  
**:set nonu** – hide line numbers  
**:set ic** – search and ignore case  
**:set noic** – search case sensitively  
**:set list** – display invisible characters (e.g., tabs)  
**:set nolist** – do not display invisible characters  
**:set showmode** – show current mode of operation  
**:set noshowmode** – do not show current mode