

# VIM CHEAT SHEET

Comprehensive reference for Vim commands and configuration

Vim operates in different modes: Normal (default, press Esc), Insert (typing text, press i/a/o), Visual (selecting text, press v), and Command (executing commands, press :)

## Tips for Beginners

- Start with `vimtutor` - run this command in your terminal for an interactive tutorial
- Use `hjkl` for movement instead of arrow keys to build muscle memory
- Stay in normal mode as much as possible - only enter insert mode when actively typing
- Learn one new command per day rather than trying to memorize everything at once
- Practice the most common operations: navigation, insertion, deletion, and saving
- Use `:help` extensively - Vim's built-in documentation is excellent

## Configuration

Add these common settings to your `~/.vimrc` file:

### DISPLAY SETTINGS

<code>set number</code>	Show line numbers
<code>set relativenumber</code>	Show relative line numbers
<code>syntax on</code>	Enable syntax highlighting

### INDENTATION

<code>set tabstop=4</code>	Set tab width
<code>set shiftwidth=4</code>	Set indent width
<code>set expandtab</code>	Use spaces instead of tabs
<code>set autoindent</code>	Auto-indent new lines

### INTERFACE SETTINGS

<code>set cursorline</code>	Highlight current line
<code>set showmatch</code>	Highlight matching brackets
<code>set ruler</code>	Show cursor position
<code>set laststatus=2</code>	Always show status line
<code>set wildmenu</code>	Enhanced command completion
<code>set scrolloff=5</code>	Keep lines above/below cursor

### BUFFER SETTINGS

<code>set hidden</code>	Allow unsaved buffer switching
<code>set autowrite</code>	Auto-save when switching buffers
<code>set confirm</code>	Ask before discarding changes
<code>set switchbuf=useopen</code>	Jump to existing window if open

### SEARCH SETTINGS

<code>set hlsearch</code>	Highlight search results
<code>set incsearch</code>	Incremental search
<code>set ignorecase</code>	Case-insensitive search
<code>set smartcase</code>	Case-sensitive if uppercase present

### EDITOR BEHAVIOR

<code>set noswapfile</code>	Disable swap files
<code>set nobackup</code>	Disable backup files
<code>set undofile</code>	Enable persistent undo
<code>set clipboard=unnamedplus</code>	Use system clipboard
<code>set mouse=a</code>	Enable mouse support

## MODES

### MODE SWITCHING

normal mode
visual mode
visual line mode
visual block mode
ENTERING INSERT MODE FROM NORMAL MODE
insert mode
insert at line start
append after cursor
append at line end
new line below
new line above
delete char and insert
delete line and insert
insert at last position

`Esc`

`v`

`V`

`Ctrl+v`

`i`

`I`

`a`

`A`

`o`

`O`

`s`

`S`

`gi`

## NAVIGATION

### BASIC MOVEMENT

left, down, up, right

`h j k l`

### WORD MOVEMENT

word forward

`w`

word backward

`b`

end of word

`e`

WORD forward

`W`

WORD backward

`B`

end of WORD

`E`

### LINE MOVEMENT

line start

`0`

first non-blank char

`^`

line end

`$`

### SCREEN MOVEMENT

top of screen

`H`

middle of screen

`M`

bottom of screen

`L`

### FILE NAVIGATION

go to top

`gg`

go to bottom

`G`

go to line number

`:N`

page down

`Ctrl+f`

page up

`Ctrl+b`

half page down

`Ctrl+d`

half page up

`Ctrl+u`

### JUMP NAVIGATION

jump back

`Ctrl+h`

jump forward

`Ctrl+j`

previous change

`g;`

next change

`g,`

### CHARACTER MOTIONS

find character forward

`f{char}`

find character backward

`F{char}`

to character forward

`t{char}`

to character backward

`T{char}`

repeat character motion

`;`

reverse character motion

`,`

## EDITING

### DELETE & CHANGE

delete character

`x`

delete char before cursor

`X`

delete line

`dd`

delete word

`d$`

delete to end of line

`d0`

delete to start of line

`D`

delete to end of line

`dw`

change word

`cw`

change line

`cc`

replace character

`r`

### COPY & PASTE

copy line

`yy`

copy word

`yw`

copy to end of line

`y$`

copy to start of line

`y0`

paste after

`p`

paste before

`P`

### UNDO & REDO

undo

`u`

redo

`Ctrl+r`

undo line changes

`U`

<b>TEXT OBJECTS</b>	<b>REGISTERS</b>	<b>SEARCH &amp; REPLACE</b>
WORD & PARAGRAPH  inner word a word (with space) inner sentence a sentence inner paragraph a paragraph  BRACKETS & QUOTES inner block a block inner block a block inside quotes around quotes  USEFUL COMBINATIONS change inner word delete inside quotes yank around block indent paragraph auto-indent to end	NAMED REGISTERS  yank to register a paste from register a append to register a  SPECIAL REGISTERS system clipboard selection clipboard last yank last delete black hole register show all registers  ciw di" ya() >ip =G	"ay "ap "Ay "+ "* "0 "1 "_ :reg
<b>GLOBAL COMMANDS</b>	<b>FILE OPERATIONS</b>	<b>SHELL COMMANDS</b>
PATTERN MATCHING  execute on matching lines execute on non-matching lines  COMMON EXAMPLES delete lines containing pattern delete empty lines copy matching lines to end move matching lines to end print matching lines print with line numbers	save file save as quit force quit save and quit save and quit open file insert file contents horizontal split open vertical split open  :g/pattern/cmd :v/pattern/cmd  :g/pattern/d :g/^\$/d :g/pattern/t\$ :g/pattern/m\$ :g/pattern/p :g/pattern/#	:w :w filename :q :q! :wq :x :e filename :r filename :sp filename :vsp filename  :w! :r!command :%!command :shell
<b>VISUAL MODE</b>	<b>FOLDING</b>	<b>BUFFERS</b>
VISUAL SELECTION  character-wise selection line-wise selection block-wise selection go to other end reselect last selection  OPERATIONS ON SELECTION delete selection copy selection change selection uppercase lowercase indent right indent left auto-indent	CREATE & TOGGLE  create fold toggle fold open fold close fold delete fold  FOLD LEVELS  open all folds close all folds open one level close one level fold on indent  :v V Ctrl+v o gv  d y c U u > < =	:zf :za :zo :zc :zd  :zR :zM :zr :zm :set fdm=indent  :ls :b N :bn :bp :bd
<b>WINDOWS</b>	<b>ADVANCED</b>	<b>EMERGENCY</b>
WINDOW SPLITS  split horizontal split vertical split horizontal split vertical  WINDOW NAVIGATION switch windows move to left window move to bottom window move to top window move to right window close window close all other windows equalize window sizes  WINDOW RESIZING increase height decrease height increase width decrease width	MARKS  set local mark set global mark go to line of mark go to exact position go to previous position go to last edit  MACROS  record macro stop recording execute macro repeat last macro  REPEAT & HELP  repeat last command show line numbers get help  :split :vsplit Ctrl+w s Ctrl+w v  Ctrl+w w Ctrl+w h Ctrl+w j Ctrl+w k Ctrl+w l Ctrl+w c Ctrl+w o Ctrl+w =  Ctrl+w + Ctrl+w - Ctrl+w > Ctrl+w <	return to normal mode return to normal mode quit without saving undo mistake get help  m[a-z] m[A-Z] '[mark] '[mark] '' '.'  q[a-z] q @ [a-z] @@  .br/> :set nu :help [cmd]