# Vim Cheat Sheet

- :h[elp] keywordopen help for keyword
- :sav[eas] file save file as
- :clo[se] close current
- :ter[minal] open a terminal window
- K open man page for word under the cursor

### Cursor movement

- h move cursor left
- **j** move cursor down
- k move cursor up
- 1 move cursor right
- gj move cursor down (multi-line text)
- **gk** move cursor up (multi-line text)
- **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)
- ge jump backwards to the end of a word
- **gE** jump backwards to the end of a word (words can contain punctuation)
- % move cursor 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 nonblank character of the line
- \$ jump to the end of the line

- **r** replace a single character.
- R replace more than one character, until ESC is pressed.
- **J** join line below to the current one with one space Cut and paste in between
- **gJ** join line below to the current one without space in between
- gwip reflow paragraph
- g~ switch case up to motion
- ${f gu}$  change to lowercase up to motion
- gU change to uppercase up to motion
- **cc** change (replace) entire line
- **c\$** or **C** change (replace) to the end of the line
- **Ciw** change (replace) entire word
- CW or Ce change (replace) to the end of the word
- S delete character and substitute text (same as cl)
- S delete line and substitute text (same as
- 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
- 0 move to other corner of block
- aw mark a word
- ab a block with ()
- aB a block with {}

### Macros

- qa record macro a
- q stop recording macro
- @a run macro a
- @ rerun last run macro

- 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
- yiw yank (copy) word under the cursor
- **yaw** yank (copy) word under the cursor and the space after or before it
- y\$ or Y yank (copy) to end of line
- p put (paste) the clipboard after cursor
- P put (paste) before cursor
- gp put (paste) the clipboard after cursor and leave cursor after the new
- **gP** put (paste) before cursor and leave cursor after the new text
- 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
- diw delete (cut) word under the cursor
- daw delete (cut) word under the cursor and the space after or before it
- :3,5d delete lines starting from 3 to 5
- :g/{pattern}/ddelete all lines containing
- :g!/{pattern}/d-
- delete all lines not containing pattern
- **d\$** or **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)

Working with multiple files

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

https://vim.rtorr.com/

- :bn[ext] go to the next buffer
- :bp[revious] go to the previous buffer
- :bd[elete] delete a buffer (close a file)
- :b[uffer]# go to a buffer by index #
- :b[uffer] file go to a buffer by file :ls or :buffers - 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
- 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)
- Ctrl + wH make current window full height at far left (leftmost vertical window)
- Ctrl + wL make current window full height at far right (rightmost vertical window)
- Ctrl + wJ make current window full width at the very bottom (bottommost horizontal window)
- Ctrl + wK make current window full width at the very top (topmost horizontal window)

- **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

8/28/25, 10:28 PM

- **zi** toggle folding functionality
- **] C** jump to start of next change

- **g\_** jump to the last nonblank character of the line
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{g}}\boldsymbol{\mathsf{g}}$  go to the first line of the document
- ${f G}$  go to the last line of the document
- **5gg** or **5G** go to line 5
- **gd** move to local declaration
- **gD** move to global declaration
- **fx** jump to next occurrence of character x
- **tx** jump to before next occurrence of character x
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{Fx}}$  jump to the 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
- **zt** position cursor on top of the screen
- **zb** position cursor on bottom of the screen
- Ctrl + e move screen
  down one line (without
  moving cursor)
- Ctrl + y move screen
  up one line (without
  moving cursor)
- Ctrl + b move screen up one page (cursor to last line)
- Ctrl + f move screen down one page (cursor to
- down one page (cursor to first line)
- Ctrl + d move cursor and screen down 1/2 page
- Ctrl + u move cursor and screen up 1/2 page
- Insert mode inserting/appending text
- **i** insert before the cursor
- $oldsymbol{I}$  insert at the beginning of the line
- $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{a}}$  insert (append) after the cursor
- A insert (append) at the

- **at** a block with <> tags
- **ib** inner block with ()
- iB inner block with {}
- it inner block with <>
  tags
- Esc or Ctrl + c exit visual mode
- 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
- $\mathbf{"xy}$  yank into register x
- **"xp** paste contents of register x
- "+y yank into the system clipboard register
- "+p paste from the system clipboard register
- Marks and positions
- :marks list of marks
- $\boldsymbol{ma}$  set current position for mark  $\boldsymbol{A}$
- `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
- " 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
- $\boldsymbol{g}$  , go to newer position in change list

- line one shiftwidth
- >% indent a block with () or {} (cursor on brace)
- <% de-indent a block with
  () or {} (cursor on brace)</pre>
- >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
- **]p** 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)
- ${f n}$  repeat search in same direction
- ${f N}$  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}`}

- [c jump to start of previous change
- ${f do}$  or  ${:}{f diffg[et]}$  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
- :diffo[ff] switch off diff mode for current window

end of the line	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	(

- **O** append (open) a new line below the current line
- $oldsymbol{0}$  append (open) a new line above the current line
- $\mbox{\bf ea}$  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 add a line
  break at the cursor
  position 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
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Ctrl} + \textbf{n} & -insert (autocomplete) next match \\ before the cursor during \\ insert mode \end{tabular}$
- Ctrl + p insert (autocomplete) previous match before the cursor during insert mode
- Ctrl + ox Temporarily
  enter normal mode to
  issue one normal-mode
  command x.
- Esc or Ctrl + c exit insert mode

- **g;** go to older position in change list
- Ctrl + ] jump to the tag
  under cursor
- search for pattern in multiple files
  - $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{:cn[ext]} & -\text{jump to the} \\ \text{next match} \end{tabular}$
  - :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
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Ctrl} + \textbf{wT} &- move the \\ current split window into \\ its own tab \end{tabular}$
- 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)

3 of 3 8/28/25, 10:28 PM