**vi Commands**

**Entering vi**

vi filename - The filename can be the name of an

existing file or the name of the file

you want to create.

view filename - Starts vi in "read only" mode. Allows

you to look at a file without the risk

of altering its contents.

**Exiting vi**

:q - quit - if you have made any changes, vi

will warn you of this, and you'll need

to use one of the other quits.

:w - write edit buffer to disk

:w filename - write edit buffer to disk as filename

:wq - write edit buffer to disk and quit

ZZ - write edit buffer to disk and quit

:q! - quit without writing edit buffer to disk

**Positioning within text**

By character

left arrow - left one character

right arrow - right one character

backspace - left one character

space - right one character

h - left one character

l - right one character

By word

w - beginning of next word

nw - beginning of nth next word

b - back to previous word

nb - back to nth previous word

e - end of next word

ne - end of nth next word

By line

down arrow - down one line

up arrow - up one line

j - down one line

k - up one line

+ - beginning of next line down

- - beginning of previous line up

0 - first column of current line (zero)

^ - first character of current line

$ - last character of current line

By block

( - beginning of sentence

) - end of sentence

{ - beginning of paragraph

} - end of paragraph

By screen

CTRL-f - forward 1 screen

CTRL-b - backward 1 screen

CTRL-d - down 1/2 screen

CTRL-u - up 1/2 screen

H - top line on screen

M - mid-screen

L - last line on screen

Within file

nG - line n within file

1G - first line in file

G - last line in file

**Begin the vi editor exercises**

Inserting text

a - append text after cursor \*

A - append text at end of line \*

i - insert text before cursor \*

I - insert text at beginning of line \*

o - open a blank line after the current

line for text input \*

O - open a blank line before the current

line for text input \*

\* Note: hit ESC (escape) key when finished inserting!

**Continue the vi exercises**

Deleting text

x - delete character at cursor

dh - delete character before cursor

nx - delete n characters at cursor

dw - delete next word

db - delete previous word

dnw - delete n words from cursor

dnb - delete n words before cursor

d0 - delete to beginning of line

d$ - delete to end of line

D - delete to end of line

dd - delete current line

d( - delete to beginning of sentence

d) - delete to end of sentence

d{ - delete to beginning of paragraph

d} - delete to end of paragraph

ndd - delete n lines (start at current line)

Changing text

cw - replace word with text \*

cc - replace line with text \*

c0 - change to beginning of line \*

c$ - change to end of line \*

C - change to end of line \*

c( - change to beginning of sentence \*

c) - change to end of sentence \*

c{ - change to beginning of paragraph \*

c} - change to end of paragraph \*

r - overtype only 1 character

R - overtype text until ESC is hit \*

J - join two lines

\* Note: hit ESC (escape) key when finished changing!

Copying lines

yy - "yank": copy 1 line into buffer

nyy - "yank": copy n lines into buffer

p - put contents of buffer after current

line

P - put contents of buffer before current

line

Moving lines (cutting and pasting)

ndd - delete n lines (placed in buffer)

p - put contents of buffer after current

line

P - put contents of buffer before current

line

Searching / Substituting

/str - search forward for str

?str - search backward for str

n - find next occurrence of current string

N - repeat previous search in reverse

direction

The substitution command requires a line range

specification. If it is omitted, the default

is the current line only. The examples below

show how to specify line ranges.

:s/old/new - substitute new for first occurrence

of old in current line

:s/old/new/g - substitute new for all occurrences

of old in current line

:1,10s/old/new - substitute new for first occurrence

of old in lines 1 - 10

:.,$s/old/new - substitute new for first occurrence

of old in remainder of file

:.,+5s/old/new - substitute new for first occurrence

of old in current line and next 5 lines

:.,-5s/old/new - substitute new for first occurrence

of old in current line and previous

5 lines

:%s/old/new/g - substitute new for all occurrences

of old in the entire file

:%s/old/new/gc - interactively substitute new for all

occurrences of old - will prompt for

y/n response for each substitution.

Miscellaneous commands

u - undo the last command (including undo)

. - repeat last command

xp - swap two adjacent characters

m[a-z] - set a marker (a - z)

'[a-z] - go to a previously set marker (a - z)

:!command - execute specified LINUX command

:r filename - read/insert contents of filename after

current line.

:1,100!fmt - reformat the first 100 lines

:!fmt - reformat the entire file

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**vi Options**

You can change the way vi operates by changing the value of certain options which control specific parts of the vi environment.

To set an option during a vi session, use one of the commands below as required by the option:

:set option\_name

:set option\_name=value

Some examples of the more common options are described below.

:set all - shows all vi options in effect

:set ai - set autoindent - automatically indents

each line of text

:set noai - turn autoindent off

:set nu - set line numbering on

:set nonu - turn line numbering off

:set scroll=n - sets number of lines to be scrolled

to n. Used by screen scroll commands.

:set sw=n - set shiftwidth to n. Used by autoindent

option.

:set wm=n - set wrapmargin to n. Specifies number

of spaces to leave on right edge of the

screen before wrapping words to next

line.

:set showmode - reminds you when you are inserting

text.

:set ic - ignore case of characters when

performing a search.

Options can be set permanently by putting them in a file called .exrc in your home directory. A sample .exrc file appears below. Note that you do not need the colon (:) as part of the option specification when you put the commands in a .exrc file. Also note that you can put them all on one line.

set nu ai wm=5 showmode ic