

vi Editor Cheat Sheet (Beginner Friendly)

Modes in vi

Mode	Description	Enter/Exit
Command Mode	Default mode for navigation & commands	Start here automatically
Insert Mode	Used to type and edit text	Press i / Esc
Ex Mode	Used for save, quit, etc.	Press : in command mode

Basic Navigation

Key	Action
h / j / k / l	Left / Down / Up / Right
0 / \$	Go to beginning / end of line
w / b	Next / Previous word
gg / G	Start / End of file
:n	Go to line number n

Insert Mode Commands

Key	Action
i / I	Insert at cursor / line start
a / A	Append after cursor / line end
o / O	New line below / above

Editing Commands

Command	Action
x	Delete character
dd	Delete line
yy / p	Copy / Paste line
u / Ctrl+r	Undo / Redo
cw	Change (replace) word

Saving & Exiting

Command	Action
:w	Save file
:q	Quit
:wq / :x	Save & quit

:q!	Quit without saving
:w filename	Save as new file

Search & Replace

Command	Action
/text	Search forward
?text	Search backward
n / N	Repeat search (same / opposite dir)
:%s/old/new/g	Replace all 'old' with 'new'