



## Vi Cheat Sheet ☺

CHEAT-SHEET

01 Nov 2015



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A collection of Vi commands in a cheat sheet, handy reference document for learning / remembering Vi commands. I refer to Vim / Vi as the same thing in this document, but in most modern Linux distros vi is often a symlink to vim.

It's worth learning Vi as it's installed on pretty much every Linux base system out there.

If you're learning Vi, you might want to check out [Vim Adventures](#) - an online adventure game that uses Vi commands.

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# Vim Resources

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Enjoy the cheat sheet :)

## Vi Insert mode & Command Mode

Vi has two basic modes, **insert mode** - used for entering text and **command mode**, used for entering commands. See the tip section below for switching between each mode.

### Vi Insert Mode

Enter vi insert mode, insert mode is used for inserting text.

- [Vi Replace](#)
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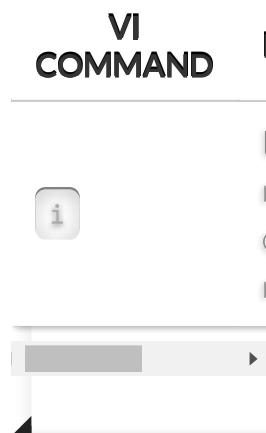
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- Advanced Vi commands
  - Vi View Options
  - Vi Run Shell Commands
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    - Vi Split Window Horizontally
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## ★ Vi Command Mode - Vi Insert Mode

Vi has two modes, **insert mode** for inserting text and **command mode** a common mistake is attempting to edit in command mode. If you are unsure on what mode Vi is using double tap escape (enters command mode) and then hit "i" if you wish to enter insert mode.

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## Vi Command Mode

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
Esc	Hit escape to enter command mode.

## Vi File Navigation

Basic file navigation, how to move up, down, left and right.

## ★ Arrow Keys

Modern Vi / Vim editors will allow you to use the arrow keys, but it's worth learning the correct way to navigate vi without using the arrow keys in case you come across Vi command line or a shell that

doesn't like arrow keys.

## Move up, down, left and right in Vim

You'll need to be in command mode for these commands, navigation in vi uses **h j k l**

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>h</b>	Move left - easy to remember h key is on the left
<b>j</b>	Move down - I remember it with j(d)own for down
<b>k</b>	Move up - k for up - I remember it with (k)up
<b>l</b>	Move right - l is on the right side of hjkl and moves you right

## Vi Page Down

VIM COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ctrl+F</b>	Vi move forward a page

## Vi Half a Page Down

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ctrl+D</b>	Vi move half a page down

## Vi Page Up

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<b>Ctrl+B</b>	Vi move up a page

## Vi Half a Page Up

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION****Ctrl+U**

Vi move up half a page

## More Advanced Ways of Entering Insert Mode

### Vi Insert Text at Start of the Line

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION****I**

Insert text at the beginning of the line

### Vi Insert Text at the end of the Line

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION****A**

Appends text at the end of the line

### Vi Append text to the right of the Cursor

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION****a**

Appends text to the right of the cursor

### Begin a new line below

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION****o**

Begin a new line, below the current line

### Vi replace line

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

0

Removes line, and allows you to type a new line in it's place



## Vi Replace

### Change a Word in Vi

**VI  
COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

cw

Replaces a single word, place cursor on first letter and hit cw  
(Change Word)



### Replace line, but not wrapped text

**VI  
COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

c\$

Replaces the current line but doesn't extend to change the rest of a wrapped sentence on the screen



## Vi Replace Character

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

r

Replaces only the character under the cursor



## Vi Replace

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

R

Replaces over the top of existing text, until the user hits return.



## Vi Delete

## Vi Delete Single Character After the Cursor

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
x	Vi deletes single character after the cursor

▶
<h2>Vi Delete Character before the Cursor</h2>

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
x	Vi deletes character before the cursor.

▶
<h2>Vi Delete Word</h2>

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dw	Vi Delete Word, deleted the word under the cursor, from the curosr position onward

▶
<h2>Vi Delete Line commands</h2>

<h3>Vi Delete Line</h3>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

dd	Delete the current line in Vi
▶	

<h3>Vi Delete until end of Line</h3>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

D	Deletes from cursor to end of line
▶	

<h3>Delete to end of screen</h3>

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dL	Deletes from cursor to end of screen
<b>Delete to end of file</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
dG	Deletes from cursor to end of file
<b>Vi Delete From Cursor To Start of Line</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
d^	Deletes from cursor to start of line
<b>Vi Copy and Paste</b>	
<b>Vi Copy Line</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
yy	Copies current line into unnamed buffer
<b>Vi Copy 3 Lines of Text</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
3yy	Copy 3 lines of text into unnamed buffer
<b>Vi Copy Word</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>yw</code>	Copy word under cursor into unnamed buffer
<b>Vi Copy 3 Words</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>3yw</code>	Copy 3 words into unnamed buffer
<b>Vi Paste Commands</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>P</code>	Copy contents of unnamed buffer to right of cursor
<b>Vi Search Commands</b>	
<b>Vi Search forward</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>N</code>	Vi search forward in file
<b>Vi Search Back</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
<code>SHIFT+N</code>	Vi search backward in file

# Vi Search and Replace Commands

## Vi Search and Replace First Instance

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
:s/find-string/replace-string/	Vi search and replace first instance of specified string

## Vi Search and Replace on a Single Line

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
:s/find-string/replace-string/g	Vi search and replace all instances of specified string on current line

## Vi Search and Replace Entire File

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
:%s/find-string/replace-string/g	Vi search and replace all instances of specified string for entire file

## Vi Search for part of a Word

A fuzzy search allows you to find something that you only know part of, for example if you wanted to find all instances of lines starting with the word "Picard" you would use the following:

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
/^Picard	Vi search within file words starting with Picard

## Vi Search for words ending with \$string

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
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VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
/worf\$	Vi search within file for word engine with worf
<b>Vi Search for Metacharacters</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
/\*	Vi search within file for metacharacters like, *
<b>Vi Exact Match Search Only</b>	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
/star\.	Vi exact search only, will return instances of "star only", not starfleet or star-trek
<b>Vi Search for a range of Strings</b>	
Helpful for finding version numbers in text files.	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
/v2.[1-9]	Vi search for a range, this example would return all v2.1-9 instances within the file, e.g. v2.4 v2.7 etc
<b>Vi Search for Upper and Lowercase</b>	
Search for upper and lowercase strings in Vi.	
VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
/ [tT] [hH] [eE]	Vi search upper or lowercase strings, this example would return any instance of the word 'the'. e.g. The, THE, tHE, tHe

# Advanced Vi commands

## Vi View Options

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
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`:set all`

Lists all Vi options

## Vi Run Shell Commands

Run shell commands from Vi.

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
------------	-------------

`:! ls -l`

Run shell command from Vi, in this example ls -l is executed

## Vi Joining Lines

Backspace doesn't always work...

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
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`SHIFT+J`

Position the cursor in either line you wish to join, and press

`SHIFT+J`

## Vi Split Windows

Useful for comparing files, to switch between windows press `SHIFT+W`

### Vi Split Window Horizontally

VI COMMAND	DESCRIPTION
------------	-------------

`:split`

Split window Horizontally in Vi

### Vi Split Window Vertically

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**`:vsplit`

Split window Virtically in Vi

**Vi Close All Split Windows****VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**`:only`

Closes all split windows and focuses on the primary window

**Vi Save commands****How to Save in Vi****VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**`:w`

Writes the file to disk

**Vi Save and Exit**How to save and exit Vi, personally I use `:wq`

&lt;/tr&gt; &lt;/tr&gt; &lt;/tr&gt;

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**`:wq`

Save and exit Vi

`:x`

Exit - Vi will prompt and ask if you wish to save

`SHIFT+ZZ`

Another way to Save and Exit Vi

`wq!`

Forces save on read only files, and exits

**Misc Vi Commands****Vi Undo Command**

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**Press **SHIFT+U** to undo in Vi**Vi Undo All**

Vi undo all since last write.

**VI COMMAND****DESCRIPTION**

Undo everything since last write

**Vi Show File Name****SHIFT+G** shows the file name, number of lines and current position.**Vi Multipliers**

Almost every command in Vi can leverage multipliers, typically it's a case of prefixing the command with a number. Example: **10w** would move 10 words to the right.

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