Vim Cheat Sheet

Global

`:help keyword` - open help for keyword

`:saveas file` - save file as

`:close` - close current pane

`K` - open man page for word under the cursor

Cursor movement

`h` - move cursor left

`j` - move cursor down

`k` - move cursor up

`l` - move cursor right

`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)

`%` - move to matching character (default supported pairs: '()', '{}', '[]' - use <code>:h matchpairs</code> in vim for more info)

Editing

`r` - replace a single character

`J` - join line below to the current one with one space in between

`gJ` - join line below to the current one without space in between

`gwip` - reflow paragraph

`cc` - change (replace) entire line

`C` - change (replace) to the end of the line

`c$` - change (replace) to the end of the line

`ciw` - change (replace) entire word

`cw` - change (replace) to the end of the word

`s` - delete character and substitute text

`S` - delete line and substitute text (same as cc)

`xp` - transpose two letters (delete and paste)

`u` - undo

`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

`O` - move to other corner of block

Cut and paste

`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

`y$` - yank (copy) to end of line

`p` - put (paste) the clipboard after cursor

`P` - put (paste) before cursor

`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

`D` - delete (cut) to the end of the line

`d$` - delete (cut) to the end of the line

`x` - delete (cut) character

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

Working with multiple files

`:e file` - edit a file in a new buffer

`:bnext` or `:bn` - go to the next buffer

`:bprev` or `:bp` - go to the previous buffer

`:bd` - delete a buffer (close a file)

`:ls` - list all open buffers

`:sp file` - open a file in a new buffer and split window

`:vsp file` - open a file in a new buffer and vertically split window

`Ctrl` + `ws` - split window

`Ctrl` + `ww` - switch windows

`Ctrl` + `wq` - quit a window

`Ctrl` + `wv` - split window vertically

`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)

Tabs

`:tabnew` or `:tabnew file` - open a file in a new tab

`Ctrl` + `wT` - move the current split window into its own tab

`gt` or `:tabnext` or `:tabn` - move to the next tab

`gT` or `:tabprev` or `:tabp` - move to the previous tab

`#gt` - move to tab number #

`:tabmove #` - move current tab to the #th position (indexed from 0)

`:tabclose` or `:tabc` - close the current tab and all its windows

`:tabonly` or `:tabo` - close all tabs except for the current one

`:tabdo command` - run the `command` on all tabs (e.g. `:tabdo q` - closes all opened tabs)

`0` - jump to the start of the line

`^` - jump to the first non-blank character of the line

`$` - jump to the end of the line

`g_` - jump to the last non-blank character of the line

`gg` - go to the first line of the document

`G` - go to the last line of the document

`5G` - go to line 5

`fx` - jump to next occurrence of character x

`tx` - jump to before next occurrence of character x

`Fx` - jump to previous occurence of character x

`Tx` - jump to after previous occurence 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

`Ctrl` + `e` - move screen down one line (without moving cursor)

`Ctrl` + `y` - move screen up one line (without moving cursor)

`Ctrl` + `b` - move back one full screen

`Ctrl` + `f` - move forward one full screen

`aw` - mark a word

`ab` - a block with ()

`aB` - a block with {}

`ib` - inner block with ()

`iB` - inner block with {}

`Esc` - exit visual mode

Visual commands

`>` - shift text right

`<` - shift text left

`y` - yank (copy) marked text

`d` - delete marked text

`~` - switch case

Registers

`:reg` - show registers content

`"xy` - yank into register x

`"xp` - paste contents of register x

Marks

`:marks` - list of marks

`ma` - set current position for mark A

`` `a `` - jump to position of mark A

`` y`a `` - yank text to position of mark A

Macros

`qa` - record macro a

`q` - stop recording macro

`@a` - run macro a

`@@` - rerun last run macro

`/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)

`n` - repeat search in same direction

`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` - remove highlighting of search matches

Search in multiple files

`:vimgrep /pattern/ {file}` - search for pattern in multiple files

`:cn` - jump to the next match

`:cp` - jump to the previous match

`:copen` - open a window containing the list of matches

`Ctrl` + `d` - move forward 1/2 a screen

`Ctrl` + `u` - move back 1/2 a screen

Insert mode - inserting/appending text

`i` - insert before the cursor

`I` - insert at the beginning of the line

`a` - insert (append) after the cursor

`A` - insert (append) at the end of the line

`o` - append (open) a new line below the current line

`O` - append (open) a new line above the current line

`ea` - insert (append) at the end of the word

`Esc` - exit insert mode