

Vi

All commands beginning with `:` (colon) must end with the `↵` key.

Entering vi

vi file	Invoke <i>vi</i> on file
vi fi1 fi2	Invoke <i>vi</i> on files sequentially
view file	Invoke <i>vi</i> on file in read-only mode
vi -R file	Invoke <i>vi</i> on file in read-only mode
vi -r file	Recover <i>file</i> and recent edits after a crash
vi newfl	Open new <i>newfl</i>

Saving Text and Leaving vi

ZZ or :wq or :x	Save current edit and quit <i>vi</i>
:w	Save current edit, stay in <i>vi</i>
:w file	Save <i>file</i> , stay in <i>vi</i>
:n,mw file	Write lines <i>n</i> through <i>m</i> to <i>file</i>
:n,mw>>file	Append lines <i>n</i> through <i>m</i> to <i>file</i>
:q	Quit <i>vi</i>
:q!	Quit <i>vi</i> , discard changes
:e!	Wipe all edits and return to original file
Q	Escape <i>vi</i> into <i>ex</i>

Moving the Cursor: line

1G	First line in file
G or \$G	Last line in file
nG	Line <i>n</i> in file
+ or ↵ or j or ^j or ^n	Line down
- or k or ^p	Line up

Moving the Cursor: column, paragraph, sentence

0 (zero) or 	First column in current line
n 	Column <i>n</i>
{	Beginning of current paragraph
}	End of current paragraph
(Beginning of previous sentence
)	Beginning of next sentence

Moving the Cursor: word, character, spaces

w or W	Start of next word; W skips punctuation
b or B	Start of previous word; B skips punctuation
e or E	End of next word; E skips punctuation
0 (zero)	First character in current line
\$	Last character in current line
+ or ↵	First character in next line
-	First non-blank character in previous line
h or ^h or BAK	Left one space
l (small L) or Space	Right one space
^(hat)	First non-blank character in current line

Undoing

u	Undo your most recent edit
U	Undo all the edits on a single line

Joining Text

J	Join next line to end of current line
nJ	Join next <i>n</i> lines together

Cursor placement & Adjusting the Screen

H	Top line of screen
nH	Line <i>n</i> from top of screen
M	Middle of screen
L	Bottom line of screen
nL	Line <i>n</i> from bottom of screen
^e	Move screen up one line
^y	Move screen down one line
^u	Move screen up 1/2 page
^d	Move screen down 1/2 page
^b	Move screen up one page
^f	Move screen down one page
z ↵	Make current line top line on screen
nz ↵	Make line <i>n</i> top line on screen
z.	Make current line middle line
nz.	Make line <i>n</i> middle line on screen
z-	Make current line bottom line
nz-	Make line <i>n</i> bottom line on screen

Inserting Text

i	Before cursor position
I	Before beginning of current line
a	Append after cursor position
A	Append after end of current line
o	On new line below current line
O	On new line above the current line

Deleting Text

^h or BAK	While inserting, delete previous character
^w	While inserting, delete previous word
^x	While inserting, delete to start of inserted text
x	Delete current character
nx	Delete <i>n</i> characters
X	Delete previous character
nX	Delete previous <i>n</i> characters
dw	Delete next word
ndw	Delete next <i>n</i> words
db	Delete previous word
dd	Delete current line
ndd	Delete next <i>n</i> lines, including current
:n,md	Delete lines <i>n</i> through <i>m</i>
D	Delete rest of current line

Copying (yanking) & Pasting Text

yy or Y	<i>Yank</i> current line
nY or nyy	<i>Yank</i> next <i>n</i> lines
yG	<i>Yank</i> from current line to EOF
yw	<i>Yank</i> from cursor position to end of word
y\$	<i>Yank</i> from cursor position to end of line
p	Place <i>yanked</i> text after cursor
P	Place <i>yanked</i> text before cursor

Copy & paste block of text

1. Move cursor to top of paragraph
2. **ma** – Place mark *a* at this location
3. Move cursor to bottom of paragraph
4. **y'a** – Copy to mark *a* (*puts deleted text in cut buffer*)
5. Move cursor to line where text is to go (*paragraph will be placed after this one*)
6. **p** – Place *yanked* text after cursor

Cut & paste block of text

1. Move cursor to top of paragraph
2. **ma** – Place mark *a* at this location
3. Move cursor to bottom of paragraph
4. **d'a** – Delete to mark *a* (*puts deleted text in cut buffer*)
5. Move cursor to line where text is to go (*paragraph will be placed after this one*)
6. **p** – Place *yanked* text after cursor

Replace text

rchar	Replace next character with <i>char</i>
Rtext	Replace next characters with <i>text</i>
s:text	Substitute <i>text</i> for next character
S or cc <i>text</i>	Substitute <i>text</i> for entire line
cwtext	Change next word to <i>text</i>
ncwtext	Replace next <i>n</i> words with <i>text</i>
Ctext	Change rest of current line to <i>text</i>

Advanced replace

:s|from|to|flag

Command options:

- % Perform this command on all lines (% is a synonym for the first to last line.)

Flags:

- g,c** all on each line, confirm each
- &** repeat last **:s** command

Examples:

:s/foo/bar/	Substitute next <i>foo</i> with <i>bar</i> on current line
:s/foo/bar/g	Substitute each <i>foo</i> with <i>bar</i> on current line
:%s/foo/bar/g	Substitute each <i>foo</i> with <i>bar</i> on all lines
:%s/foo/bar/c	Substitute next <i>foo</i> with <i>bar</i> on all lines, but confirm each
:%s/foo/bar/gc	Substitute each <i>foo</i> with <i>bar</i> on all lines, but confirm each

Searching

/str ↵	Find <i>str</i>
?str ↵	Find in reverse, <i>str</i>
n	Find <i>str</i> again
%	Beginning of balancing (), [], or {}
fchar	Forward in current line to <i>char</i>
Fchar	Backward in current line to <i>char</i>
tchar	Forward in current line to character before <i>char</i>
Tchar	Backward in current line to character after <i>char</i>
:se ic	Ignore case when searching
:se noic	Pay attention to case when searching (<i>default</i>)

Indenting Text

^i or ↵	While inserting, insert one shift width
:se ai	Turn on auto-indentation
:se sw=<i>n</i>	Set the shift width to <i>n</i> characters
<< or >>	Shift one line left or right (respectively) by one shift width
n<< or n>>	Shift <i>n</i> line left or right (respectively) by one shift width