

vi commands card

VI GENERAL COMMANDS

vi filename	edit 'filename'
a,i	insert mode till <ESC>
:	ex commands till <RET>
u	undo the last command
ZZ	Exits vi and saves changes.

CURSOR POSITIONING COMMANDS

j	Moves cursor down one line, same column.
k	Moves cursor up one line, same column.
h	Moves cursor back one character.
l	Moves cursor forward one character.
RET	Moves cursor to beginning of next line.
0	Moves cursor to beginning of current line.
\$	Moves cursor to end of current line.
SPACE	Moves cursor forward one character.
nG	Moves cursor to beginning of line n. Default is last line of file.
0	Moves the cursor to the first character of the line.
:n	Moves cursor to beginning of line n.
b	Moves the cursor backward to the beginning of the previous word.
e	Moves the cursor backward to the end of the previous word.
w	Moves the cursor forward to the next word.
Ctrl n	Next screen
Ctrl b	Previous screen
Ctrl g	Shows file name and line number of the cursor position
H	first line on screen
L	last line on screen
M	middle line on screen

TEXT SEARCH COMMANDS

/pattern	Search for a next occurrence of a <i>pattern</i> .
?pattern	Moves cursor backward to next occurrence of a <i>pattern</i> .
n	Repeats last / or ? pattern search.

TEXT REPLACE COMMANDS

:/s/search_string/replacement_string/g	replaces every <i>search_string</i> on the current line with <i>replacement_string</i> .
:12,36s/search_string/replacement_string/g	replaces every <i>search_string</i> on lines 12 through 36 with <i>replacement_string</i> .
:/s/search_string/replacement_string/g	replaces every <i>search_string</i> from current line through last line with <i>replacement_string</i> .

TEXT INSERTION COMMANDS

a	Appends text after cursor. Terminated by escape key.
A	Appends text at the end of the line.
i	Inserts text before cursor.
I	Inserts text at the beginning of the line.
o	Opens new line below the current line for text insertion.

O	Opens new line above the current line for text insertion.
	Overwrites last character during text insertion.
<ESC>	Stops text insertion.

TEXT DELETION COMMANDS

x	Deletes current character.
X	delete characters before cursor
dd	Deletes current line.
dw	Deletes the current word.
d)	Deletes the rest of the current sentence.
D, d\$	Deletes from cursor to end of line.

TEXT CHANGING COMMANDS

cw	Changes characters of current word until stopped with <ESC>
c\$	Changes text up to the end of the line.
C, cc	Changes remaining text on current line until stopped by <ESC>
~	Changes case of current character.
xp	Transposes current and following characters.
J	Joins current line with next line.
s	Deletes the current character and goes into the insertion mode.
rx	Replaces current character with x.
R	Replaces the following characters until terminated with <ESC>

CUT AND PASTE COMMANDS

yy	Puts the current line in a buffer. Does not delete the line from its current position.
p	Places the line from the buffer after the cursor.
P	Puts the line from the buffer before the cursor

EX COMMANDS

:! shell command	shell command within vi
:e file	open a file
:n	open a next file
:p	open a previous file
:se nu	set line numbers
:se nonu	no line numbers
:wq	Writes changes to current file and quits edit session.
:q!	Quits edit session (no changes made).

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