

VI QUICK REFERENCE CARD

NAVIGATION (MOVE CURSOR):

line up: k
 line down: j
 character left: h
 character right: l
 word left: b
 word left - ignore punctuation: B
 word right: w
 word right - ignore punctuation: W
 word right (end of word): e
 start of line: O [zero]
 end of line: \$
 start of next line: +
 end of buffer/file: G
 go line number (n) specified: (n)G
 go column (n) specified: (n)|
 beginning of next sentence:)
 beginning of last sentence: (
 start of previous paragraph: {
 end of current/next paragraph: }
 top of screen (home): H
 middle of screen: M
 bottom of screen: L

SCROLLING (USING CTRL KEY):

up one line: ^e
 down one line: ^y
 forward one screenful: ^f
 back one screenful: ^b
 forward half page/screen: ^d
 back half page/screen: ^u

INSERT/APPEND:

insert at cursor position: i
 insert at start of line: I
 open new line below cursor: o
 open new line above cursor: O
 append after cursor position: a
 append text to end of line: A

NOTE:

After you have finished inserting or appending text, hit the ESCAPE key to return to return to command mode.

Information on changing text and saving/exiting can be found overleaf.

General Note:

Commands marked with a character in round brackets - e.g. "(n)G" - indicates that the command requires a parameter to execute the command. In this example, the command "9G" would put the cursor on the 9th line of the file.

Generally, (n) indicates that an integer is required and (x) indicates any single character.

DELETION:

character: x
 character left of cursor: X
 current character plus next (n): x(n)
 current char plus rest of line: D
 line: dd
 next (n) lines including current: (n)dd
 word: dw
 word - including punctuation: dW
 start of line to cursor (0=zero): d0
 top of screen to cursor: dH
 middle of screen to cursor: dM
 cursor to bottom of screen: dL
 cursor to end of line: dG
 line specified by line no. (n): d(n)G
 start of sentence to cursor: d(
 cursor to end of sentence: d)
 word left of cursor: db
 word left cursor plus punctuation: dB
 from cursor to specified character (c): df(x)
 from cursor up to but not including...
 specified character (c): dt(x)

CHANGE TEXT:

replace character with another: r
replace word (I): cw
replace text up to & including specified character (x) - (i): cf(x)
replace text up to just before specified character (x) - (I): ct(x)
replace text from cursor to end of line (I): C
delete char and enter input mode (I): s
delete specified number of characters (n) - (n)s (I):
change case of character: ~
replace all characters from cursor position until ESCAPE is pressed (I): R
transpose next two characters: xp
swap current line with next: ddp
delete line and enter input mode (I): cc
- or: S
delete to end sentence (I): c
delete from start of sentence (I): c{
delete to end of paragraph (I): c}
delete from start of paragraph : c{

Note:

Commands marked with (I) indicates that the command invokes insert mode and should be terminated by pressing the ESCAPE key!!

SEARCH COMMANDS:

search forward: /(string)
search backward: ?(string)
repeat search, same direction: n
repeat search, opposite direction: N
find specified character (x) on current line: f(x)
find previous specified character (x) on current line: F(x)
move to character before specified character (x): t(x)
move backwards to character before specified (x): T(x)
repeat f/F/t/T command in same direction: ;
repeat f/F/t/T command in opposite direction: ,
move to other matching parenthesis - () {} or []: %

CUT AND PASTE TEXT:

copy (yank) current line into buffer: yy
- or: Y
copy (n) number of lines into buffer: nyy
- or: nY
copy word into buffer: yw
copy from cursor to end of sentence into buffer: y
buffer:
For other Y/y command options, see "delete" or "Change Text" sections.
paste text at current position (word) or above current line (line): P
paste text after current position (word) or below current line (line): p
mark text for deletion with label (x) (where x = any single character): m(x)
cut text from position of mark to current cursor position (x = label character): d'(x)

Use the P/p command (shown above) to paste.

SAVING/EXITING vi:

save text and quit: :wq
save into different file (file) and quit: :wq (file)
quit file: :q
write to another file but remain in vi: :w (file)
quit file without saving after editing: :q!
write buffer contents & return to shell: :x [or ZZ]
write specified lines between supplied parameters (n1 and n2) to file: :(n1),(n2) w

Notes on saving/exiting:

If a save or quit operation is prevented from working by file protections, use the force option (specified by the shriek [!] symbol) in much the same way as the "quit without save" command on the left.

If you want to force an operation including a filename, you must place the shriek BEFORE the filename, immediately after the command itself. e.g. :w! output.txt

will force vi to write to a file called output.txt