

VI Quick Reference

Entering and Exiting vi	
% vi name	edit name at top
% vi +n name	... at line n
% vi + name	... at end
% vi -r	list saved files
% vi -r name	recover file name
% vi name ...	edit first; rest via :n
% vi -t tag	start at tag
% vi +/pat name	search for pat
% view name	read only mode
ZZ	quits vi, saving changes if file was modified
:q	quit
:q!	quit, discard changes
CTRL-z	stop vi for later resumption
The Display	
Last line	Error messages, echoing input to : / ? and !. feedback about i/o and large changes.
@ lines	On screen only, not in file.
~ lines	Lines past end of file.
CTRL-x	Control characters, DEL is delete.
tabs	Expand to spaces, cursor at last.
vi Modes	
Command	Normal and initial state. Others return here. ESC (escape) cancels partial command.
Insert	Entered by a i A I o O c C s S R. Arbitrary text then terminates with ESC character, or abnormally with interrupt.
Last line	Reading input for : / ? or !; terminate with ESC or CR to execute, interrupt to cancel.

Counts Before Commands	
line/column number	z G
scroll amount	CTRL-D CTRL-U
replicate insert	a i A I
repeat effect	most rest
Simple Commands	
dw	delete a word
de	... leaving punctuation
dd	delete a line
3dd	... 3 lines
i	insert text (press ESC to terminate)
cw	change word (press ESC to terminate)
easESC	pluralize word
xp	transpose characters
Interrupting, Canceling	
ESC	end insert or incomplete cmd
CTRL-c	interrupt (or DEL)
CTRL-l	refresh screen if scrambled
File Manipulation	
:w	write back changes
:wq	write and quit
:e name	edit file name
:e!	reedit, discard changes
:e + name	edit, starting at end
:e +n	edit starting at line n
:e #	edit alternate file
CTRL-^	synonym for :e #
:w name	write file name
:w! name	overwrite file name
:sh	run shell, then return
!:cmd	run cmd, then return
:n	edit next file in arglist
:n args	specify new arglist
:f	show current file and line

CTRL-g	synonym for :f
:ta tag	to tag file entry tag
CTRL-]	:ta, following word is tag
Positioning Within File	
CTRL-f	forward screen full
CTRL-b	backward screen full
CTRL-d	scroll down half screen
CTRL-u	scroll up half screen
G	goto line (end default)
/pat	next line matching pat
?pat	prev line matching pat
n	repeat last / or ?
N	reverse last / or ?
/pat/+n	n'th line after pat
?pat?-n	n'th line before pat
]]	next section/function
[[previous section/function
%	find matching (){ or }
Adjusting the Screen	
CTRL-l	clear and redraw
CTRL-r	retype, eliminate @ lines
zCR	redraw, current at window top
z-	... at bottom
z.	... at center
/pat/z-	pat line at bottom
zn.	use n line window
CTRL-e	scroll window down 1 line
CTRL-y	scroll window up 1 line
Line Positioning	
H	home window line
L	last window line
M	middle window line
+	next line, at first non-white
-	previous line, at first non-white
CR	return, same as +
j	next line, same column
k	previous line, same col

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Character Positioning	
^	first non-blank
0	beginning of line
\$	end of line
l	forward
h	backwards
CTRL-h	same as h
space	same as l
fx	find x forward
Fx	f backward
tx	upto x forward
Tx	back upto x
;	repeat last f F t or T
,	inverse of ;
	to specified column
%	find matching (){ or }
Marking and Returning	
``	previous context
"	... at first non-white in line
mx	mark position with letter x
`x	to mark x
'x	... at first non-white line
Words, Sentences, Paragraphs	
w	word forward
b	back forward
e	end of word
)	to next sentence
}	to next paragraph
(back sentence
{	back paragraph
W	blank delimited word
B	back W
E	to end of W
Commands For Lisp	
)	Forward s-expression
}	... but don't stop at atoms
(Back s-expression

{	... but don't stop at atoms
Corrections During Insert	
CTRL-h	erase last character
CTRL-w	erase last word
erase	your erase, same as CTRL-h
kill	your kill, erase input this line
\	escapes CTRL-h, your erase and kill
ESC	ends insertion, back to command
CTRL-c	interrupt, terminates insert
CTRL-d	backtab over autoindent
CTRL-^D	kill autoindent, save for next
0CTRL-D	... but at margin next also
CTRL-v	quote non-printing character
Insert and Replace	
a	append after cursor
i	insert before
A	append at end of line
I	insert before first non-blank
o	open line below
O	open above
rx	replace single char with x
R	replace characters
Operators (double to affect lines)	
d	delete
c	change
<	left shift
>	right shift
!	filter through command
=	indent for LISP
y	yank line to buffer

Miscellaneous Operations	
C	change rest of line
D	delete rest of line
s	substitute chars
S	substitute lines
J	join lines
x	delete characters
X	... before cursor
Y	yank lines
Yank and Put	
p	put back lines
P	put before
"xp	put from buffer x
"xy	yank to buffer x
"xd	delete into buffer x
Undo, Redo, Retrieve	
u	undo last change
U	restore current line
.	repeat last change
"dp	retrieve d'th last delete