

BASIC VI COMMANDS

To Start vi

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|----|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | vi filename | Create or Edit filename starting at line 1 |
| 2. | vi -r filename | Recover filename that was being edited when system crashed |

To Exit vi

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|----|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | :x<return> | Quit vi, writing out modified file to file named in original invocation |
| 2. | :wq<return> | Quit vi, writing out modified file to file named in original invocation |
| 3. | :q<return> | Quit or exit vi |
| 4. | :q!<return> | Quit vi even though latest changes have not been saved for this vi call |

Moving the cursor

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|----|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | j or <return> [or down-arrow] | Move cursor down one line |
| 2. | k[or up-arrow] | Move cursor up one line |
| 3. | h or<backspace> [or left-arrow] | Move cursor left one line |
| | l or<space>[or right-arrow] | Move cursor right one line |
| 4. | 0(zero) | Move cursor to start of current line(the one with the arrow) |
| 5. | \$ | Move cursor to end of the current line |
| 6. | w | Move cursor to beginning of next word |

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|-----|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 7. | b | Move cursor back to beginning of preceding word |
| 8. | :0<return> or 1G | Move cursor to first line in file |
| 9. | :n<return>or nG | Move cursor to line n in file |
| 10. | :\$<return>or G | Move cursor to last line in file |

Screen Manipulation

| | | |
|----|----|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1. | ^f | Move forward one screen |
| 2. | ^b | Move backward one screen |
| 3. | ^d | Move down(forward) one half screen |
| 4. | ^u | Move up(back)one half sreen |
| 5. | ^l | Redraws the screen |
| 6. | ^r | Redraws the screen,removing the deleted lines |

Adding,Changing,Deleting the text

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. | u | Undo whatever you just did(a simple toggle) |
|----|---|---------------------------------------------|

Inserting or Adding text

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|----|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | i | Insert text before cursor,until<esc>hit |
| 2. | I | Insert text at beginning of current line,until<esc>hit |
| 3. | a | Append text after cursor,until<esc>hit |
| 4. | A | Append text to end of current line,until<esc>hit |
| 5. | o | Open and put text in a new line below current line,until<esc>hit |
| 6. | O | Open and put text in a new line above current line,until<esc>hit |

Changing the text

| | | |
|----|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | r | Replace single character under cursor(no <esc>needed) |
| 2. | R | Replace characters,starting with current cursor position,until<esc>hit |
| 3. | cw | Change the current word with new text,starting with the character under cursor,until<esc>hit |
| 4. | cNw | Change N words beginning with the character under cursor,until<esc>hit |
| 5. | c | change(replace)the characters in the current line,until<esc>hit |
| 6. | cc | change(replace)the characters in the current line,stopping when <esc>hit |
| 7. | Ncc or cNc | change(replace)the next N lines,starting with the current line,stopping when <esc>hit |

Deleting the text

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|----|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | x | Delete single character under cursor |
| 2. | Nx | Delete N characters, starting with character under cursor |
| 3. | dw | Delete the single word beginning with character under cursor |
| 4. | dNw | Delete N words beginning with character under cursor |
| 5. | D | Delete the remainder of the line,starting with current cursor position |
| 6. | dd | Delete entire current line |
| 7. | Ndd or dNd | Delete N lines beginning with the current line |

Cutting and pasting the text

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|----|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | yy | Copy (yank,cut) the current line into buffer |
| 2. | Nyy or yNy | copy(yank,cut) the next N lines,including the current line, into the buffer |
| 3. | p | put(paste) the lines in the buffer into the text after the current line |

Searching the text

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|----|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | /string | Search forward for occurrence of string in text |
| 2. | ?string | Search backward for occurrence of string in text |
| 3. | n | Move to next occurrence of search string |
| 4. | N | Move to next occurrence of search string in opposite direction |

Determining line numbers

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|----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | ::= | Returns line number of current line at bottom of screen |
| 2. | := | Returns the total number of lines at bottom of the screen |
| 3. | ^g | Provides the current line number, along with the total number of lines,in the file at the bottom of the screen |

Saving and reading files

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|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | :r filename<return> | Read file named filename and insert after current line(the line with arrow) |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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| 2. | :w<return> | Write current contents to a file named in original vi call |
| 3. | :w newfile<return> | Write current contents to a new file named newfile |
| 4. | :12,35w smallfile<return> | Write the contents of the line numbered 12 through 35 to a new file named smallfile |
| 5. | :w! prevfile<return> | Write current contents over a pre-existing file named prevfile |