

Sidebar

Linux · Vim Cheat Sheet

Modal editing, at a glance. For the full picture — including why Vim works this way — see [Learning Vim](#) and [Vim Intermediate/Advanced](#).

MODES

Esc Return to Normal mode

i Insert before cursor

a Insert after cursor

I Insert at start of line

A Insert at end of line

o Open new line below, insert

O Open new line above, insert

: Command-line mode

MOVEMENT

h j k l Left / down / up / right

w /

b Next / previous word start

e End of word

0 Start of line

^ First non-blank character

\$ End of line

gg /

G First / last line of file

:N Go to line N

% Jump to matching bracket

Ctrl-f /

Ctrl-b Page down / up

EDITING

x Delete character under cursor

dd Delete (cut) line

dw Delete word

D Delete to end of line

cc Change entire line

cw Change word

r{char} Replace one character

J Join line below with current

~ Toggle case of character

. Repeat last change

COPY & PASTE

yy Yank (copy) line

yw Yank word

p Paste after cursor

P Paste before cursor

SEARCH & REPLACE

/pattern Search forward

?pattern Search backward

n /

N Repeat search, same / opposite direction

***** Search word under cursor

:%s/old/new/g Replace all in file

:%s/old/new/gc Replace all, with confirmation

VISUAL MODE

v Character-wise selection

V Line-wise selection

Ctrl-v Block-wise selection

d /

y Delete / yank selection

> /

< Indent / unindent selection

WINDOWS, BUFFERS & TABS

`:split` /

`:vsplit` Horizontal / vertical split

`Ctrl-w w` Cycle between windows

`Ctrl-w q` Close current window

`:bnext` /

`:bprev` Next / previous buffer

`:ls` List open buffers

`:tabnew` Open new tab

SAVING, EXITING & UNDO

`:w` Save

`:q` Quit

`:wq` /

`:x` Save and quit

`:q!` Quit, discard changes

`ZZ` Save and quit (Normal mode)

`u` Undo

`Ctrl-r` Redo

THE #1 NEW-USER TRAP

Typing a Normal-mode command while still in Insert mode doesn't run the command — it just types those characters into the document. If Vim seems to be "ignoring" a command, press Esc first to confirm you're actually in Normal mode before trying again.