

Modes & Controls

Command Mode ESC (commands preceded by :)

Insertion Mode Entered on insertion or change

Starting VI (command line)

vi <filename>	Edit <i>filename</i>
vi -r <filename>	Edit last version of <i>filename</i> after crash
vi + n <filename>	Edit <i>filename</i> at line <i>n</i>
vi + <filename>	Edit <i>filename</i> at end of file
vi +/str <filename>	Edit <i>filename</i> at first occurrence of <i>str</i>

In insertion mode the following should be preceded by ESC:

:w	Save
:x	Save & Exit
:q	Exit if no changes made
:q!	Exit & discard any changes

Cursor Navigation

h or ◀	Cursor left
j or ▼	Cursor down
k or ▲	Cursor up
l or ▶	Cursor right
w	Next word
W	Next blank delimited word
b	Start of word
B	Start of blank delimited word
e	End of word
E	End of blank delimited word
(Back a sentence
)	Forward a sentence
{	Back a paragraph
}	Forward a paragraph
0	Beginning of line
\$	End of the line
1G	Start of file
G	End of file
:n	<i>n</i> th line of file
f<char>	Forward to <i>char</i>
F<char>	Back to <i>char</i>
H	Top of screen
M	Middle of screen
L	Bottom of screen
%	Matching bracket
gg	Start of document

Inserting Text

i	Insert before cursor
a	Append after cursor
I	Insert before line
A	Append after line
o	Add new line after current line
O	Add new line before current line
r	Overwrite one character
R	Overwrite many characters
:r <file>	Reads <i>file</i> and inserts it after this line
p	Put after the position or line
P	Put before the position or line
C	Rewrite the whole line

Deleting Text

x	Delete character to right of cursor
X	Delete character to left of cursor
D	Delete the rest of line
dd or :d	Delete current line
ndw	Deletes the next <i>n</i> words
ndb	Deletes the previous <i>n</i> words
ndd	Deletes <i>n</i> lines starting with current
:x,yd	Delete lines <i>x</i> through <i>y</i>
d{nav_cmd}	Overwrite many characters

Searching

/string	Search forward for string
?string	Search backwards for string
n	Go to next match
N	Go to previous match
:set ic	Ignore case while searching
:set noic	Case-sensitive searching
:set nu	Turn on line numbers
:x,yg/str	Search for <i>str</i> from line <i>x</i> to line <i>y</i>
:g/str/cmd	Run <i>cmd</i> on lines containing <i>str</i>
*	Search for next instance of current word
#	Search for last instance of current word

Replacing

:s/pt/str/flag	Replace pattern with string
Flags	
g	Replace all occurrences of pattern
c	Confirm replaces
&	Repeat last :s command

Other

u	Undo last change
J	Join lines
nJ	Join next <i>n</i> lines
.	Repeat last command
U	Undo all changes to line
:N	Open split screen
v	Visual mode
ctrl + c	Escape insert mode