

# VI Quick Reference Card

The first thing you need to know is that VI uses 2 modes: insert mode, and command mode.  
When invoked, vi is in command mode, where cursor movement and text deletion and pasting occur. Input mode is initiated by several commands used to insert or change text. In input mode, ESC (escape) is used to leave input mode; In command mode, ESC is used to cancel a partial command;

## Command Mode

### Movement by line – screen

nG or :n	go to line n (i.e. 7G = got line 7)
0	first position on line
\$	last position on line
^ or _	first non-whitespace char on line
+, -	first character on next, prev line
^f, ^b	(Ctrl-f/b)scroll foward, back one full screen
^d, ^u	(Ctrl-d/u)scroll forward, back half a screen
^e, ^y	(Ctrl-e/y)show one more line at bottom, top
L	go to the bottom of the screen
Z [enter]	position line with cursor at top of screen
z.	position line with cursor at middle of screen
z-	position line with cursor at bottom of screen
:set number	shows the line numbers
:set nonumber	switches off line numbers

### Markers:

M[position]	set marker p for this line
`[position]	move to mark position p
'[position]	move to marker p first non-blank

### Other movement:

fm	forward to character m
Fm	backward to character m
tm	forward to character before m
Tm	backward to character after m
w	move to next word (stops at punctuation)
W	move to next word (skips punctuation)
b	move to previous word
B	move to previous word (skips punctuation)
e	end of word (punctuation not part of word)

E	end of word (punctuation part of word)
), (	next, previous sentence
]], [[	next, previous section
}, {	next, previous paragraph
%,	goto matching parenthesis ( ) { }
h, j, k, l	Left, down, up, right

### Input Mode:

#### Text changes

a	append after cursor
A or \$a	append at end of line
i	insert before cursor
I or _i	insert at beginning of line
o	open line below cursor
O	open line above cursor
cm	change text (m is movement)
dm	delete (m is movement)
dd	delete line

#### Cut/Copy/Paste

D or d\$	delete to end of line
x	delete char under cursor
X	delete char before cursor
ym	yank to buffer (m is movement)
yy or Y	yank to buffer current line
p	paste from buffer after cursor
P	paste from buffer before cursor
"bdd	cut line into named buffer b (a..z)
"bp	paste from named buffer b

#### Search and replace

/[search string]	search forward for [search string]
?[search string]	search backward for [search string]
n	repeat search (forward)
N	repeat search (backward)
:s/old/new	replace next occurrence of old with new
:s/old/new/g	replace all occurrences on the line
:x,ys/old/new/g	replace all occurrences from line x to y
:%s/old/new/g	replace all occurrences in file
:%s/old/new/gc	same as above, with confirmation

#### Other

n>m	Indent n lines (m is movement)
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n<m	un-indent left n lines (m is movement)
~	switches the case
.	repeat last command
U	undo changes on current line

u	undo last command
J	join end of line with next line (at <cr>)
:rf	insert text from external file f
^G	show status

#### Starting VI and saving files

vi filename	
:wq	write to file and quit
:w	write to file
:w!	write to file forced
:q!	quit without savings
:show all	shows all kind of options which are configurable

And of course there is always "man vi" for additional help.

