

VIM Quick Reference

The most important commands on one page

Vim is modal. Press **Esc** at any time to return to Normal mode.

Help in Vim: `:help` Tutorial: `vimtutor`

1. Navigation and Files

Modes

Esc	Normal mode
i / a	Insert before / after cursor
o / O	Open line below / above
v	Characterwise selection
V	Linewise selection
Ctrl-v	Blockwise selection
:	Command line

Movement

h j k l	Left, down, up, right
w / b	Next / previous word
e	End of word
0 / \$	Start / end of line
^	First non-blank character
gg / G	Start / end of file
5G	Go to line 5
%	Matching bracket
Ctrl-d/u	Half page down / up
Ctrl-f/b	Page forward / back

Save and Quit

:w	Save
:w datei	Save as
:q	Quit
:q!	Quit without saving
:wq / ZZ	Save and quit
:e datei	Open file
:r datei	Insert file

Count Words, Lines and Characters

g Ctrl-g	Show words, characters and position
v ... g Ctrl-g	Count the visual selection
:echo line('\$')	Lines in buffer
:echo wordcount()	Words, characters and bytes

2. Edit and Search

Change and Delete

x	Delete character
dd	Delete line
D / d\$	Delete to end of line
dw	Delete word
cc	Change line
cw	Change word
C	Change to end of line
rX	Replace character with X
u / Ctrl-r	Undo / redo
.	Repeat last change

Copy and Paste

yy	Copy line
yw	Copy word
y\$	Copy to end of line
p / P	Paste after / before
"y	Selection to system clipboard
"p	Paste from system clipboard
V ... y	Copy lines
V ... d	Cut lines

Search - Examples

/TODO	Search forward for TODO
?TODO	Search backward for TODO
n / N	Next / previous match
* / #	Search word under cursor
:noh	Clear match highlighting

Search and Replace - Examples

:s/foo/bar/g	Replace in current line
:%s/TODO/DONE/g	Replace every TODO with DONE
:%s/old/new/gc	Whole file, confirm each
:5,10s/foo/bar/g	Only in lines 5 to 10
% = whole file g = all matches per line	
c = confirm each change	

3. Workspace and Settings

Text Objects

iw / aw	Inner word / a word
i" / a"	Inside / including quotes
i(/ a(	Inside / including parentheses
i{ / a{	Inside / including braces
diw	Delete current word
ci"	Change text inside quotes
ya{	Copy block including braces

Windows, Buffers and Tabs

:split	Split horizontally
:vsplit	Split vertically
Ctrl-w h/j/k/l	Move between windows
Ctrl-w q	Close window
:ls	List buffers
:bn / :bp	Next / previous buffer
:bd	Close buffer
:tabnew	New tab
gt / gT	Next / previous tab

Selection and Indentation

v / V	Select characters / lines
Ctrl-v	Select rectangular block
> / <	Indent / unindent
=	Auto-indent
gg=G	Indent whole file

Useful Settings

:set number	Line numbers on
:set nonumber	Line numbers off
:set mouse=a	Mouse in all modes
:set mouse=	Disable mouse
:set paste	Paste mode on
:set nopaste	Paste mode off
:set list	Show invisible characters

How Vim Commands Work

Many commands are built from small parts: **[Count] + Operator + Motion/Text object**

dw	3dw	ciw	y\$
d delete + w word	3 + d + w	c change + iw inner word	y yank + \$ line end
= delete one word	= delete three words	= replace a word	= copy to line end