

vi - A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The following are some of the commonly used commands in **vi**. They should get you through 90% of the things you need to do with the screen editor.

Insert Mode:

In insert mode the keyboard behaves like a typewriter. keystrokes appear as screen text after typing any of the following commands:

i	Insert text at cursor
I	Insert text at beginning of line
a	Append text after cursor
A	Append text at end of line.
o	open a line below current line
O	open a line above current line

Command Mode

In command mode keystrokes perform functions such as moving the cursor, searching for patterns, or quitting from the document. All commands are referenced from the current cursor position.

(ESC) Invokes command mode from insert mode

Cursor Movement

#h	moves cursor left # characters, 1 is default
#j	moves cursor down # lines, 1 is default
#l	moves cursor right # characters, 1 is default
#k	moves cursor up # lines, 1 is default

NOTE: On most systems the cursor keys can also be used for movement.

G	go to last line of file
nG	go to nth line of file
#w	moves right # of words
#b	moves back # of words
0(zero)	move to first character on line
\$	move to last character on line
(CTRL)u	scrolls up half a screen
(CTRL)d	scrolls down half a screen
(CTRL)f	move forward 1 screen
(CTRL)b	move backward 1 screen

Quitting the editor:

:q!	quit file without saving any changes
:wq	Write and quit.
:wqr	always writes
:x and ↑(ZZ)	leave the editor, writing the file if any changes were made

Deleting text:

D or d\$	Deletes from cursor to the end of line.
d0	Deletes from cursor to the start of line.
#x	delete # of characters, default is 1
#dw	delete the # of words
#dd	delete # of lines starting at cursor position

General editing

u	undo the most recent change
U	undo all changes on the current line. Once you move from the line all changes are lost).
J	join the next line onto this one
.	Repeats the last change.
#yy	Copies (yanks) # number of lines into buffer.
p	Puts (pastes) text from buffer.

File Manipulation:

:e filename	Edit filename to.
:w filename	Write (save) filename.
:r filename	Read contents of filename into buffer.
ZZ	Write the current file to disk and exit. If no changes to file, just exit. <i>WARNING! - Don't use {Ctrl-Z} by mistake.</i>

Line (Colon) Commands

:n	Goto line n.
:\$	Go to last line of file.
:1,\$d	Delete from first to last line in file.
!:command	Execute a UNIX command
:set number	Set line numbers
:set showmode	Set mode

Searching

/string	Search for string.
n	Search for next occurrence of the search string
:%s/string1/string2/g	- Search for string1 and replace with string2

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO vi

The following are some of the commonly used commands in **vi**. They should get you through 90% of the things you need to do with the screen editor. This is duplicated and expanded in Appendix C.

Cursor Movement

h	moves cursor left 1 character
j	moves cursor down a line
l	moves cursor right 1 character
k	moves cursor up a line
w	moves 1 word to right
b	moves 1 word to left
0(zero)	move to first character on line
\$	move to last character on line
(CTRL)u	scrolls up
(CTRL)d	scrolls down

NOTE: On most systems the cursor keys can also be used for movement.

Entering text:

i	Insert at cursor.
a	Append text just right of cursor.
R	Overtime
rc	replace character at cursor with c
o	open a line below current line
O	open a line above current line

Deleting text:

D or d\$	Deletes from cursor to the end of line.
d0	Deletes from cursor to the start of line.
x	delete character at cursor
dw	delete the word
dd	delete the line

General editing

u	undo the most recent change
U	undo all changes on the current line. (Once you move from the line all changes are lost).
J	join the next line onto this one
.	Repeats the last change

Searching for text

/string(ENTER)	search for <i>string</i> .
n	searches for next occurrence of <i>string</i>
G	go to last line of file
#G	go to line #

File Manipulation:

:e filename	Edit filename.
:w filename	Write filename.
:r filename	Read contents of filename into buffer.

Quitting the editor:

:x or ZZ	if file has been changed, write to disk. Exit from editor.
:wq	Write and quit.

WARNING! - Don't use {Ctrl-Z} by mistake.