

## vi editor commands

### 3 modes of vi

#### command mode

you can navigate the file and use the commands on this sheet

#### insert mode

you insert text into the file and can move around (using the arrows) in the file if you are using vim. You exit insert mode by pressing the **ESC key**.

#### special command mode

Allows you to enter special commands. While in command mode, press :

### enter insert mode commands

i insert before cursor  
o lower-case oh opens a new line (below)  
O upper-case oh opens a new line (above)  
a append (insert after cursor)  
A append at end of line

### saving, exiting

:w write contents to disk  
:wq write contents and quit  
ZZ write contents and quit  
:q quit  
:q! quit and don't save changes

### searching

/foo search forward for "foo"  
?foo search backwards for "foo"  
n repeat last search

### delete (and place in buffer)

x delete current character  
10x delete 10 characters  
dd delete current line  
6dd delete 6 lines  
d0 delete to beginning of line  
d\$ delete to end of line  
dw delete word  
3dw delete 3 words

### copy (and place in buffer)

yy yank (copy)  
5yy yank 5 lines

### paste

p lower-case pee pastes after cursor  
P upper-case pee pastes before cursor

### using other paste buffers

"a7dw delete 7 words and place in buffer a  
"b5dd delete 5 lines and place in buffer b  
"ap paste contents of buffer a  
"bp paste contents of buffer b

### navigation

↑ move up one line  
5↑ move up 5 lines  
↓ move down 1 line  
6↓ move down 6 lines  
1G go to line 1  
15G go to line 15  
G go to last line  
H go to top of screen (high)  
L go to bottom of screen (low)  
w go to next word  
7w move over 7 words  
b back one word  
0 go to beginning of line  
\$ go to end of line

### special command mode

:r foo read file foo into this file after cursor  
:!command execute the specified unix command and return to vi  
:r !command execute the specified unix command and read the results into this file after the cursor  
:10,20d delete lines 10-20  
:1,\$s/alpha/beta/g from the first line to the last line, change all occurrences of alpha to beta.  
:5,10> indent lines 5 through 10  
:20,30< de-indent lines 10 through 20

### miscellaneous editing commands

u undo  
· repeat last command  
J join two lines  
5>> indent 5 lines 1 tab  
2<< de-indent 2 lines 1 tab  
>% with cursor on a brace, indent bracketed block of lines  
<% de-indent bracketed block of lines

### .vimrc file

:set ai sw=4  
:set number  
:set expandtab  
:set softtabstop=4  
:set smartindent