

Vi Editor “Cheat Sheet”

Conventions used in this document

Assumptions: At the end of commands, if nothing happens press the ENTER or RETURN key. Unix is case sensitive (“a” is not the same as “A”).

vi Bold print is used to indicate what you must type exactly as it appears.
filename Italic print indicates you must substitute information in the command.

Entering vi

vitutor Invokes a tutorial for vi
vi *filename* Normal way of entering vi

Saving and Exiting

ZZ Quit and Save
:wq Quit and Save
:q! Force quit and ignore changes
:w Save changes and stay in file
:f *file* Change current filename to *file*

Positioning the Cursor

G Go to last line in file
***n*G** Go to line number *n*
:*n* Go to line number *n*
b Back one word
w Start of next word
(Beginning of previous sentence
) Beginning of next sentence
{ Beginning of previous paragraph
} Beginning of next paragraph
H Home-top line on screen
L Last line on screen

Inserting New Text

i Insert before cursor
I Insert at beginning of line
a Insert after line
A Append to end of line
o Insert one line below cursor
O Insert one line above cursor
Esc Terminate insert mode

Searching

/*string* Search forward for *string*
?*string* Search backward for *string*
:s/*old/new/n* Search and replace *n* times

Deleting and Copying Text

x Delete character at current cursor position
dd Delete current line
dw Delete a word
***n*dd** Delete *n* lines
***n*dw** Delete *n* words
D Delete remainder of line
Y or yy Copy current line to new buffer
p Place buffer contents or last deleted text after cursor
P Place buffer contents or last deleted text before cursor

Changing Text

rx Replace character with *x*
R Replace beginning at cursor
cw Change word
cc Change line
C Change to end of line

Miscellaneous Commands

!*command* Issue UNIX *command* from within vi
J Join two lines
:r *file* Append *file* into vi
z Redraw the screen
. Repeat last command
u Undo last command

Positioning the Cursor

	^B	Scroll back one screen		
	^U	Scroll back half screen		
	k	Move up one line		
	↑			
	↑			
Move left one character	h	⇐ ⇌ ⇒		l Move right one character
Goto first position on current line	0 (zero)	↓ ↓		\$ Goto last position on current line
	j	Move down one line		
	^D	Scroll forward half screen		
	^F	Scroll forward one screen		