

# Vi & Vim

## CHEAT SHEET 101

Press **ESC** (escape key) to get into the Vi command mode. You will need to press the **RETURN** key to execute a command starting with the character colon ":", slash "/", or question mark "?". Use **CTRL+c** to cancel a command, the dot "." to repeat your last command, and "!:cmd d" to execute a shell command named cmd.

Insert & Replace	insert mode
i	insert text before the cursor
a	insert text after the cursor
I	insert text at the beginning of the current line
A	insert text at the end of the current line
o	insert text in a new line below the cursor
O	insert text in a new line above the cursor
r	replace a character at the cursor position
R	replace characters starting at the cursor position

Cursor Motion	navigation
h or ←	insert text before the cursor
l or →	insert text after the cursor
k or ↑	insert text at the beginning of the current line
j or ↓	insert text at the end of the current line
G	goto the end of file
nG or :n	goto the line number n
0	move to the beginning of the line
\$	move to the end of the line
CTRL+f	move one screen view forward
CTRL+b	move one screen view backward

Ex Commands	vi features
:q	quit current open file
:q!	force to quit without saving changes
:w	save file
:w file	save file as file
:wq!	force to save file then quit
:x,yw file	write from line x to line y into file
:w » file	append buffer to file
:e file	edit another file
:e! file	edit another file without saving current changes
:r file	insert file content at the current cursor position
:n	edit next file in vi arguments file list
CTRL+G	display current file name and position

You can start vi with arguments, the -c option is particularly useful to execute commands in a file from the command line. You can separate multiple commands with a pipe "|".

**Example:**  
vi -c "%s/false/true/gj:wq" file.txt

**Going Further with:**  
:**map** for mapping a key in command mode to a group of commands.  
Example: ":**map de** :l,\$d**AM**" will delete all lines when using the :de command.  
:**set** to define or show your editor options.  
Example: ":**set number**" will make vi display line numbers, and "**set all**" will display all current vi options.  
:**ab** to define a text abbreviation in insert mode.  
Example: ":**ab VIM VI Improved**" will auto-complete "VIM" in insert mode for the phrase "VI Improved".

Search & Substitute	patterns
/string	search forward for string
?string	search backward for string
n	repeat the last search
:/s/str1/str2/gc	search and substitute str1 by str2 from the current line to the end of file. A line number can be specified before the comma ",". The "c" ask for confirmation before each substitution
:%s/str1/str2/g	replace all str1 by str2 in all the file without prompting for confirmation
:%s/str1/str2/	replace str1 by str2 on the first occurrence in each line of the file

Undo, Delete, and Copy	edit commands
u	undo last change
CTRL+r	redo last undo change
mA	set mark A to current position. Marks can be the letter [a-z] and [A-Z]
y'A	yank (copy) from current line to mark A
d'A	delete from current line to mark A
P	put the buffer content before the cursor
p	put the buffer content after the cursor
x	delete character at cursor position
dW	delete first word after cursor position
d\$ or D	delete from cursor position to end of line
dd	delete current line
J	join current line with following line