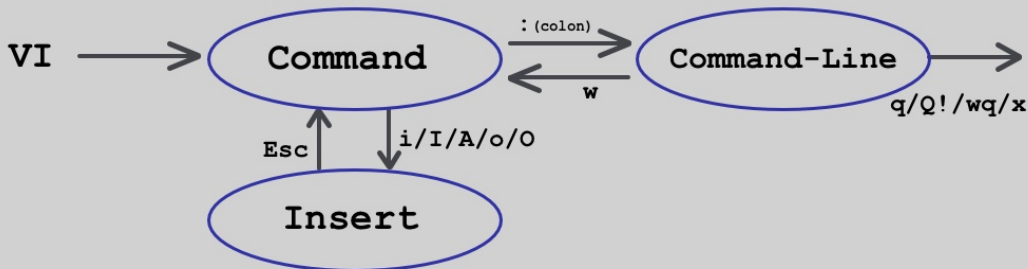


## The vi editor (**visual editor**) - A quick reference guide.

To startup vi:

```
vi filename
```

Vi has three main modes *Command mode*, *Insert mode* and *Command-Line mode*.



The editor begins in command mode, where cursor movement and copy/paste commands can be issued. If you are ever unsure which mode you're in, press Esc to return to command mode.

### Insert text (Insert mode):

		Open line above cursor	O		
Insert text at beginning of line	I	Insert text at cursor	i	append text after cursor	a
		Open line below cursor	O		Append text at line end
					A

### Switch to Command mode:

Switch to command mode: [ESC]

Most commands execute as soon as typed except for "colon" commands which execute when you press the return key.

### Cursor Movement (command mode):

		Scroll <u>B</u> ackward 1 screen	[ctrl] b		
		Scroll <u>U</u> p 1/2 screen	[ctrl] u		
Go to beginning of line	0	Go to line <i>n</i>	<i>n</i> G	Go to end of line	\$
		Scroll <u>D</u> own 1/2 screen	[ctrl] d	Go to line number	: ##
		Scroll <u>F</u> orward 1 screen	[ctrl] f		
		Go to last line	G		
Scroll by sentence	( f/b )				
Scroll by word	f/b w b	Move left, down, up, right	h j k l	Left 6 chars	6h
Scroll by paragraph	{ f/b }	Move left, down, up, right	← ↓ ↑ → Arrow Keys	Go to line #6	6G

### Delete text (command mode):

Change word	CW	Replace one character	r		
Delete word	dw	Delete text at cursor	X	Delete entire line (to buffer)	dd
		Delete (backspace) text at cursor	X	Delete 5 lines (to buffer)	5dd
		Delete current to end of line	D	Delete lines 5-10	:5,10d

### Editing (command mode):

Copy line	yy	Copy <i>n</i> lines	<i>n</i> yy	Copy lines 1-2 /paste after 3	:1,2t3
Paste above current line	P				
Paste below current line	p			Move lines 4-5 /paste after 6	:4,5m6
		Find the next t	ft	Join previous line	J
Search backward for string	?string	Search forward for string	/string	Find next string occurrence	n
% (entire file) s (search and replace) /old text with new/	:%s//oldstring/newstring/cg			Ignore case during search	:set ic

c (confirm) g (global - all)					
Repeat last command	.	Undo previous command	U	Undo all changes to line	U

Save and Quit (command mode):

Save changes to buffer	:W	Save changes and quit vi	ZZ or :wq	Save file to new file	:w <i>file</i>
		Quit without saving	:q!	Save lines to new file	:10,15w <i>file</i>

In general a number *n* preceding any vi command will tell vi to repeat that command *n* times.

:syntax on Turn on syntax highlighting  
:syntax off Turn off syntax highlighting  
:set number Turn on Line numbering (shorthand :set nu)  
:set nonumber Turn off Line numbering (shorthand :set nonu)  
  
:set ignorecase Ignore case sensitivity when searching  
:set noignorecase Restore case sensitivity (default)

:set autoindent Turn on Auto-indentation  
Use the command >> to indent and the << command to outdent  
:set shiftwidth=4 Set indentation to four spaces  
:set noautoindent Turn off Auto-indentation  
Change all Windows CR/LF to Unix style LF line endings in the current file:  
:g/^M/s///g  
(To enter the ^M, type CTRL-V CTRL-M)

Command-line mode

Command-line mode commands are typed at the bottom of the screen.  
To enter Command-line mode from Command mode, push colon : a colon will appear at the bottom.  
Command-line (Ex) commands:

q [Enter] If you haven't made any modifications, or have already saved them beforehand.  
quit [Enter] If you haven't made any modifications, or have already saved them beforehand.  
q! [Enter] ignore any modifications and quit.  
w [Enter] Save and return to *Command* mode.  
wq [Enter] Save and quit.  
x [Enter] Save and quit, same as wq

The **Ex** mode is similar to the command line mode as it also allows you to enter Ex commands. Unlike the command-line mode you won't return to normal mode automatically. You can enter an Ex command by typing a **Q** in normal mode and leave it again with the **:visual** command. Note that the Ex mode is designed for Batch processing and as such won't support mappings or command-line editing.

The vi editor was an update on the earlier **ex** (and **ed**) editors, it introduced a *Visual Interactive* mode which was contracted to give the name **vi**.

*"vi was written for a world that doesn't exist anymore - unless you decide to get a satellite phone and use it to connect to the Net at 2400 baud" - Bill Joy*

Related:

[Full list of VI commands](#)  
[Programmers Vim cheat sheet](#)  
[VIM tutor](#)  
[Learning the vi Editor](#) - How to use the vi editor.  
[History and effective use of Vim](#) - Joe Nelson.  
[How to grok vi](#) - Stack Overflow.  
[bcvi](#) - Back Channel vi - remote file editing with SSH.  
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