

vi editor commands

3 modes of vi

command mode

you can navigate the file and use the commands shown on this page

insert mode

you can type into the file, and with vim you can still move around the file

last-line mode

you can issue complicated commands on the last line of the editor

editing

i	insert
o	open a new line (below)
O	open a new line (above)
a	append
A	append at end of line
u	undo
.	repeat last command

cutting and pasting

yy	yank (copy)
5yy	yank 5 lines
dd	delete current line
6dd	delete six lines
p	paste (below current line) (lower-case 'p')
P	paste (above current line) (capital 'P')

deleting

x	delete current character
10x	delete 10 characters
dd	delete current line
6dd	delete six lines
d0	delete to beginning of line
d\$	delete to end of line

navigation – up, down

[Up]	move up one line
5 [Up]	move up 5 lines
[Down]	move down 1 line
6 [Down]	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)
M	go to middle of screen
L	go to bottom of screen (low)

navigation – left, right

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

searching

/foo	search forward for “foo”
?foo	search backwards for “foo”
n	repeat last search

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

miscellaneous

:!ls	run “ls” command from editor
:r foo	read file foo into this file
:10,20d	delete lines 10-20

more miscellaneous

`:1,$s/foo/bar/g`

from the first line to the last line change all occurrences of “foo” to “bar”

`first[Ctrl][p]`

vi auto-complete; turns “first” into “firstName”, assuming you have a variable in the file named `firstName`