2. Commands

Below you will find a cheat-sheet with vi commands. This cheat sheet will also come in handy in the next section of this document,
Practice Lesson #1.

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vi cheat-sheet

a. cursor movements (items below are sometimes called objects):
        h - left one character
        l - right one character
        j - down one line
        k - up one line
        w - right one word
        b - back one word
        $ - to the end of line
        0 - to the beginning of the line
        ) - right one sentence
        ( - left one sentence
        } - right one paragraph
        { - left one paragraph
        Ctrl-F - forward one page
        Ctrl-B - back one page
        G - go to (without arguments, go to end of file)
b. deleting:
        d - delete
                        then  add  one  of  the  cursor  movement  symbols  to
                show what should be deleted, i.e.:
                d$ - delete to end of line
                              d0 - delete  to  the  beginning  of  the  line
                              d} - delete  to  the  end  of  paragraph
        dd - delete delete (delete the whole line)
        x - delete character cursor is on
c. other basic commands:
        r - replace one character
            ZZ - save  and  exit  (hold  down  shift  and  press  "z"  twice)
        y - yank (copy into temporary buffer)
                    then add cursor movement symbol to show what should be
                    copied, for example: y) - copy to the end of sentence
        Y - yank line cursor is on
            p - paste  below  cursor  line  (deleted  or  copied  text)
        P - paste above cursor line
        u - undo last editing command
        /sometext - search for "sometext"

d. any  command  can  take  numeric  argument  before  the  name  of  "object",  i.e.:
        5dd - delete 5 lines beginning with cursor line (or) d5d - same
              2dw - delete  two  words  (or)  d2w - delete  two  words
        c3w - change 3 words
```

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        3Ctrl-B - move up three pages
        1G - go to the first line
e.  external  commands  can  be  performed  on  the  selected  text  (in  lines)
    if command is started with "!", i.e.:
        !}fmt - reformat paragraph to 72 columns
f.  command line (sometimes called "ex mode"):
        :
g.  from the command line a "set" command can be executed to
    customize editing environment, i.e.:
        :set all - will show the state of all options
            :set  number  -  will  show  on  the  screen  numbers  of  all  lines
        :set autoindent   // obvious
h.  from  the  command  line  operations  can  be  performed  on  the  range  of  lines,
    i.e.:
        :18,24 del - delete from line 18 to line 24
            :23,48  copy  17  -  block  from  line  23  to  48  copy  to  line  17
            :2,17  move  92  -  block  from  line  2  to  17  move  to  line  92
i.  from  the  command  line  any  external  UNIX  command  can  be  performed  on
    the range of lines if line range is superseded by "!":
        :11,16! sed -e "s/^//*/" -e "s/$/*//"

                        (the  command  above  wraps  the  block  of  text  with
                        "C"  style  comments  -  /* text */.   It  can  be  done
                easier, but this is an example)
        :14,19! sort -r +3
                        (sort  the  table  in  reverse  order  by  fourth  column)
j.  file manipulation from the command line:
        :r somefile - read in "somefile"
         :x - save and exit (if  file  is  "Read Only", this  command will
            exit without saving)
        :wq - write and quit (same as above)
             :w  -  write  (save)  if  the  file  permissions  allow  it
         :w! - save file even if it is read-only as long as we own it
        :w somefile - save this file as "somefile"
        :q - quit without saving
        :q! - quit without saving if changes were made
k.  text input commands (all require "Esc" to terminate):
        i - insert text before the character cursor is on
        I - insert text at the beginning of the line
            a - append (insert text after the character cursor is on)
        A - append text to the end of the line
        c - change (replace previous text with new one)
                    takes  arguments  just  like  the  delete  command  -  it  is
                    a  fast  and  powerful  way  of  changing  original  text  -
                                much  more  so  than  typical  "overwrite"

        R - start overwriting text
            o  -  start  entering  text  at  the  beginning  of  the  new  line
          below the cursor
            O  -  start  entering  text  at  the  beginning  of  the  new  line
          above the cursor
l.  if in doubt, press "Esc"
```

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