

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.

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

- 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- i. from the command line any external UNIX command can be performed on the range of lines if line range is superseded by "!":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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 */
```

current rating:

```
image:rdf newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rdf.png (null)
|
image:rss newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rss.png (null)
|
image:Atom newsfeed //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/atom.png (null)
- Powered by
image:LeopardCMS //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/leopardcms.png (null)
- Running on
image:Gentoo //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/gentoo.png (null)
-
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image:Valid XHTML1.1 //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/xhtml.png (null)
:
image:Valid CSS //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/css.png (null)
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image:buttonmaker //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/buttonmaker.png (null)
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Time to create this page: ms
<!--
image:system status display /status/output.jpg (null)
-->
```