

vi Quick Reference

Command Mode [Esc key]

Screen movement

h back one character
j down one line
k up one line
l forward one character
 $\sqrt{}$ arrow keys work locally
.

^ go to line start
\$ go to line end

G go to last line

3G go to line 3
^G show line number
^D go down 1/2 screen
^U go up 1/2 screen
^F go forward 1 screen
^B go backward 1 screen

Word movement

W go forward 1 word
3W go forward 3 words
B go backward 1 word
3B go backward 3 words

Search functions

n repeat previous search
N reverse previous search

Delete Text

x delete one character
dw delete one word
dd delete one line
D delete to end of line
d0 delete to start of line
dG delete to end of file
4dd delete 4 lines
 Copy and insert text

yy yank a copy of a line
5yy yank a copy of 5 lines

p put below cursor
P put above cursor

Cancel an edit

u undo last change
. do last change again

Word processing

J join next line to current
4J join 4 lines to current

Last Line Mode

Search functions

/exp go forward to *exp*
?exp go backward to *exp*

Move and insert text

:3,8d delete lines 3-8
:4,9m 12 move lines 4-9 to 12

:2,5t 13 copy lines 2-5 to 13
5,9w file write lines 2-5 to file

Substitution

:s/old/new change old to new
:%s/old/new change all old to new

Save and exit

:w write buffer to disk
:w newfile write buffer to newfile
:w! file write absolutely
:wq or :ZZ write buffer and quit
:wq! write absolutely and quit
:q quit editor
:q! quit, discard changes
:e! re-edit, discard changes

Bringing in text

:r file read in *file*
!command execute *command*

:sh open new shell
!! shell results in file

Entry Mode (or Input Mode)

Text entry

a append after cursor
A append at end of line
i insert before cursor
5i insert 5 times
I insert at start of line

Add New Lines

o open a line below cursor
O open a line above cursor

Text entry

cw change word
3cw change 3 words
C change line
r replace one character
R overstrike one line

vi Configuration

:set nu display line numbers
:set nonu no line numbers
:set display current mode
showmode
:set no mode display
noshowmode
:set all show all settings
:set list display hidden characters

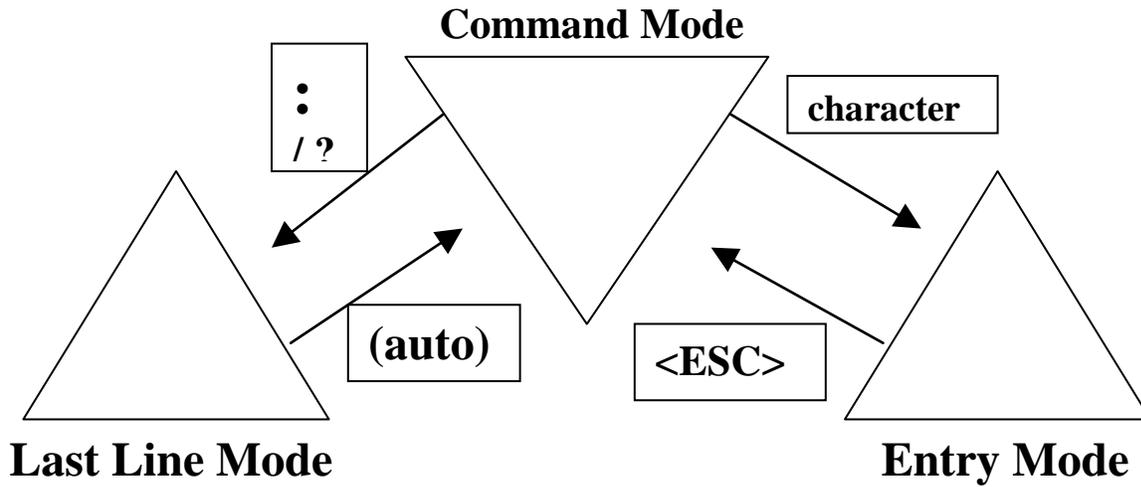
To start vi with set settings place in a file called **.exrc** in home directory. Enter one command per line without the :

Command-line editing with vi
set -o vi turns on
set +o vi turns off
Esc key activates the in-line editor

Loading vi options:

vi file = open file in vi
view file = open file in vi in Read Only
vedit = starts vi in showmode
vi -r = recover a crashed file

Vi Quick Reference Guide



vi is a very powerful editor that has many commands, too many to list on this sheet. Although cryptic, vi is the most commonly used text editor in the UNIX world, especially when remotely logging in, such as a Telnet session. Here are some common rules to remember:

1. vi starts in Command Mode where keystrokes are used for navigating around the screen, Deleting text, copy and put functions, and some Word processing functions.
2. Entry Mode, often referred to as Input Mode, is for entering text. The most common keystrokes to transition from Command Mode to Entry Mode are “**a, i, o**”. Once pressed, you transition into Entry Mode permitting you to enter text.
3. Pressing the ESC key returns you from Entry Mode to Command Mode.
4. Last Line Mode is for saving the file, quitting without saving, exiting vi, moving and inserting text. To move from Command Mode to Last Line Mode enter a colon “**:**”. When you press the enter key you are automatically transitioned back to Command Mode.
5. Search functions are also performed in Last Line Mode. From Command Mode press “**/**” to begin a forward search and “**?**” to begin a backward search. Searches are case sensitive.
6. If you find yourself in a mess and wish you could start over press ESC (to get into Command Mode) and then press **:e!** which removes all edits as if you just opened the file.
7. The **:wq!** Saves a file (even if the file is read-only) and exits vi.