

VIM Quick Reference Card

Basic movement

h l k j character left, right, line up, down
b w word/token left, right
ge e end of word/token left, right
{ } beginning of previous, next paragraph
() beginning of previous, next sentence
0 gm beginning, middle of line
^ \$ first, last character of line
nG ngg line *n*, default the last, first
n% percentage *n* of the file (*n must be provided*)
n| column *n* of current line
% match of next brace, bracket, comment, #define
nH nL line *n* from start, bottom of window
M middle line of window

Insertion & replace → insert mode

i a insert before, after cursor
I A insert at beginning, end of line
gI insert text in first column
o O open a new line below, above the current line
rc replace character under cursor with *c*
grc like *r*, but without affecting layout
R replace characters starting at the cursor
gR like *R*, but without affecting layout
cm change text of movement command *m*
cc or S change current line
C change to the end of line
s change one character and insert
~ switch case and advance cursor
g~m switch case of movement command *m*
gum gUm ... lowercase, uppercase text of movement *m*
<*m* >*m* shift left, right text of movement *m*
n<< n>> shift *n* lines left, right

Deletion

x X delete character under, before cursor
dm delete text of movement command *m*
dd D delete current line, to the end of line
J gJ join current line with next, without space
:rd↔ delete range *r* lines
:rdx↔ delete range *r* lines into register *x*

Insert mode

^Vc insert char *c* literally
^Vn insert decimal value of character
^A insert previously inserted text
^@ same as ^A and stop insert → command mode
^Rx insert content of register *x*
^N ^P text completion before, after cursor
^W delete word before cursor
^U delete all inserted character in current line
^D shift left one shift width
^K c₁ c₂ enter digraph
<esc> abandon edition → command mode

Copying

"x use register *x* for next delete, yank, put
:reg↔ show the content of all registers
:reg x↔ show the content of registers *x*
ym yank the text of movement command *m*
yy or Y yank current line into register
p P put register after, before cursor position
]p [p like *p*, *P* with indent adjusted
gp gP like *p*, *P* leaving cursor after new text

Advanced insertion

g?m perform rot13 encoding on movement *m*
n^A n^X +*n*, -*n* to number under cursor
gqm format lines of movement *m* to fixed width
:rce w↔ center lines in range *r* to width *w*
:rle i↔ left align lines in range *r* with indent *i*
:rri w↔ right align lines in range *r* to width *w*
!mc↔ filter lines of movement *m* through command *c*
n!!c↔ filter *n* lines through command *c*
:r!c↔ filter range *r* lines through command *c*

Visual mode

v V ^V .. start/stop highlighting characters, lines, block
o ... exchange cursor position with start of highlighting
gv start highlighting on previous visual area
aw as ap select a word, a sentence, a paragraph
ab aB select a block (), a block { }

Undoing & repeating commands

u U undo last command, restore last changed line
. ^R repeat last changes, redo last undo
n. repeat last changes with count replaced by *n*
qc qC ... record, append typed characters in register *c*
q stop recording
@c execute the content of register *c*
@@ repeat previous @ command
:@c↔ execute register *c* as an *Ex* command
:rg/p/c↔ execute *Ex* command *c* on range *r*
[where pattern *p* matches

Complex movement

- + line up/down on first non-blank character
B W space-separated word left, right
gE E end of space-separated word left, right
n_ down *n* - 1 line on first non-blank character
g0 beginning of screen line
g^ g\$ first, last character of screen line
gk gj screen line up, down
fc Fc next, previous occurrence of character *c*
tc Tc before next, previous occurrence of *c*
; , repeat last fFtT, in opposite direction
[[]] start of section backward, forward
[]][..... end of section backward, forward
[()] unclosed (,) backward, forward
[{]} unclosed {, } backward, forward
[m]m ... start, end of backward, forward java method
[#]# unclosed #if, #else, #endif backward, forward
[*]* start, end of /* */ backward, forward

Search & substitution

/s↔ ?s↔ search forward, backward for *s*
/s/o↔ ?s?o↔ search fwd, bwd for *s* with offset *o*
n or /↔ repeat forward last search
N or ?↔ repeat backward last search
* ... search backward, forward for word under cursor
g# g* same, but also find partial matches
gd gD ... local, global definition of symbol under cursor
:rs/f/t/x↔ substitute *f* by *t* in range *r*
[*x* : g—all occurrences, c—confirm changes
:rs x↔ repeat substitution with new *r* & *x*

Special characters in search patterns

`.` `^` any single character, start of line
`\<` `\>` start, end of word
`[c1..c2]` a single character in range *c*₁..*c*₂
`[^c1..c2]` a single character not in range
`\i` `\I` an identifier, excluding digits
`\k` `\K` a keyword, excluding digits
`\f` `\F` a file name, excluding digits
`\p` `\P` a printable character, excluding digits
`\s` `\S` a white space, a non-white space
`\e` `\t` `\r` `\b` `<esc>`, `<tab>`, `<↵>`, `<←>`
`\= *` `\+ ...` match 0..1, 0..∞, 1..∞ of preceding atoms
`\|` separate two branches (\equiv *or*)
`\(\)` group patterns into an atom

Offsets in search commands

n or +n *n* line downward in column 1
-n *n* line upward in column 1
e+n e-n *n* characters right, left to end of match
s+n s-n *n* characters right, left to start of match
;sc execute search command *sc* next

Marks and motions

mc mark current position with mark *c* ∈ [*a*..*Z*]
`'c 'C` go to mark *c* in current, *C* in any file
`'0..9` go to last exit position
`' ' "` go to position before jump, at last edit
`' [']` go to start, end of previously operated text
`:marks↵` print the active marks list
`:jumps↵` print the jump list
n^O go to *n*th older position in jump list
n^I go to *n*th newer position in jump list

Key mapping & abbreviations

`:map c e↵` map *c* ↦ *e* in normal & visual mode
`:map! c e↵` map *c* ↦ *e* in insert & cmd-line mode
`:unmap c↵` `:unmap! c↵` remove mapping *c*
`:mk f↵` write current mappings, settings... to file *f*
`:ab c e↵` add abbreviation for *c* ↦ *e*
`:ab c↵` show abbreviations starting with *c*
`:una c↵` remove abbreviation *c*

Tags

`:ta t↵` jump to tag *t*
`:nta↵` jump to *n*th newer tag in list
`^T` jump to the tag under cursor, return from tag
`:ts t↵` list matching tags and select one for jump
`:tj t↵` jump to tag or select one if multiple matches
`:tags↵` print tag list
`:n^T↵` jump back to *n*th older tag in tag list
`:npo↵` jump back from *n*th older tag in tag list
`:tl↵` jump to last matching tag
`^W{ :pt t↵` preview tag under cursor, tag *t*
`^W]` split window and show tag under cursor
`^Wz or :pc↵` close tag preview window

Scrolling & multi-windowing

`^E ^Y` scroll line up, down
`^D ^U` scroll half a page up, down
`^F ^B` scroll page up, down
`zt or z↵` set current line at top of window
`zz or z.` set current line at center of window
`zb or z-` set current line at bottom of window
`zh zl` scroll one character to the right, left
`zH zL` scroll half a screen to the right, left
`^Ws or :split↵` split window in two
`^Wn or :new↵` create new empty window
`^Wo or :on↵` make current window one on screen
`^Wj ^Wk` move to window below, above
`^Ww ^W^W` move to window below, above (wrap)

Ex commands (↵)

`:e f` edit file *f*, unless changes have been made
`:e! f` edit file *f* always (by default reload current)
`:wn :wN` write file and edit next, previous one
`:n :N` edit next, previous file in list
`:rw` write range *r* to current file
`:rw f` write range *r* to file *f*
`:rw>>f` append range *r* to file *f*
`:q :q!` quit & confirm, quit and discard changes
`:wq or :x or ZZ` write to current file and exit
`<up>` `<down>` recall commands starting with current
`:r f` insert content of file *f* below cursor
`:r! c` insert output of command *c* below cursor

Ex ranges

`,` `;` separates two lines numbers, set to first line
n an absolute line number *n*
`.` `$` the current line, the last line in file
`% *` entire file, visual area
`'t` position of mark *t*
`/p/ ?p?` the next, previous line where *p* matches
`+n -n` `+n`, `-n` to the preceding line number

Miscellaneous

`:sh↵` `:!c↵` start shell, execute command *c* in shell
`K` lookup keyword under cursor with `man`
`:make↵` start `make`, read errors and jump to first
`:cn↵` `:cp↵` display the next, previous error
`:cl↵` `:cf↵` list all errors, read errors from file
`^L ^G` redraw screen, show filename and position
`g^G` show cursor column, line, and character position
`ga` show ASCII value of character under cursor
`gf` open file which filename is under cursor
`:redir>f↵` redirect output to file *f*