

Vi Editor Commands

vi is a modal editor that works well from a simple command line, character only terminal. The most important thing to keep in mind about vi editing is that you will be in either 1 of 2 modes, Insertion Mode, or Command Mode. Since vi works well from a character only terminal, it is essential to learn the basics of vi editing (moving the cursor, inserting text, cut/copy/paste operations), because some time with only terminal access it will be the only editor available for you to use.

Action	Key Sequence
Text Entry Mode	
Enter text entry mode	i
Exit text entry mode and return to command mode.	ESC
Cursor Movement	
Up one line	UpArrow or k
Down one line	DownArrow or j
Right one character	RightArrow or l
Left one character	LeftArrow or h
To start of line	Home or ^
To end of line	End or \$
Back one word	b
Forward one word	w
Forward one screen full of text	PageDown or CTRL-F
Backward one screen full of text	PageUp or CTRL-B
Goto line nn	:nn<Enter> or nnG (1 means first line, \$ means last line)
Deleting Text	
Delete character under cursor	x
Delete word under cursor	dw
Delete current line	dd
Cut / Copy / Paste Text	
Copy (yank) lines into the paste buffer	:<range>y<Enter>
Copy (yank) current line into paste buffer	Y
Insert (put) paste buffer after current line	p
Searching	
Search forward from current position for string sss	/sss<Enter> (<Enter> or n to repeat last search)
Search backward from current position for string sss	?sss<Enter> (?<Enter> or N to repeat last search)
Saving and Loading Files	
Save with current name	:w<Enter>
Save file as name	:w <name><Enter>
Save file with current name and exit	:wq
Quit without saving changes	:q!
Undo and other Operations	
Undo the last operation	u
Redraw the screen	CTRL-L

