

vi help sheet

some useful tips and command for the vi editor

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You have to use **ESC** (escape key) to get into the **vi** command mode. You will need to press **RETURN** Key for executing a command starting with the punctuation character « : » or « / » or « ? ». Use **CTRL+c** for cancel a command. Use « . » for repeat your last command and « !cmd » for execute a shell command (where cmd is the command to execute).

to get into insert mode	
i	insert text before the cursor
a	append text after the cursor
I	insert text at the beginning of the current line
A	append text at the end of the current line
o	insert text in a new line below the cursor
O	insert text in a new line above the cursor

navigation commands	
h or ←	move cursor left
l or →	move cursor right
k or ↑	move cursor up
j or ↓	move cursor down
G	goto the end of file
nG or :n	goto the line number « n »
0	move to the beginning of line
\$	move to the end of line
ctrl+f	move one screen forward
ctrl+b	move one screen backward

file commands	
:q	quit current open file
:q!	force to quit (without saving open file)
:w	save file
:w file	save file as « name »
:wq!	overwrite file then quit
:x,yw file	write from line « x » to line « y » into « file »
:w >> file	append buffer to « file »
:e file	edit another file
:e! file	edit another file without saving the current open file
:r file	insert file content at the current cursor position
:n	edit next file in vi arguments file list
ctrl+G	get file status

You can launch vi with some arguments. One useful is « -c » for execute vi commands in a file directly from the command line.

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ex.:  
vi -c « %s/false/true/g|:wq » file.txt
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search commands	
/string	search forward for « string »
?string	search backward for « string »
n	repeat last search
:/s/str1/str2/gc	search and replace « str1 » by « str2 » from the current line (a line number can be specified before the comma) to the end of file. Ask for confirmation before replace.
:%s/str1/str2/g	replace all « str1 » by « str2 » in all the file without confirmation.
:%s/str1/str2/	replace « str1 » by « str2 » for first occurrence of each line of file.

edit commands	
r	replace a character at the cursor position
u	undo last change
mA	set mark « A » (can be any letter, case sensitive) at the beginning of current line
y'A	yank from current line to the mark « A »
d'A	delete from current line to the mark « A »
P (caps P)	put the buffer before the cursor
p (small p)	put the buffer after the cursor
x	delete character at cursor position
dw	delete first word after cursor position
d\$ or D	delete from cursor position to the end of line
dd	delete current line
J (caps J)	join current line with the following line

Look at :

:map for mapping a key in command mode to a group of commands (ex. **:map de :,\$d^M** will delete all file when using **de** command)

:set for define or show your editor current options

:ab for define a text abbreviation in insert mode (ex. **:ab VIM Vi Improved** will auto complete **VIM** in insert mode)