

# 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  
**O 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

## 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 c<sub>1</sub> c<sub>2</sub>** ..... enter digraph  
**<esc>** ..... abandon edition → command mode

## 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*

## 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*

## 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

## 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  
**gO** ..... 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*

### Visual mode

**v V**  $\hat{V}$ ... 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 { }

### Special characters in search patterns

**.**  $\hat{\cdot}$ ... any single character, start of line  
**|< |>**... start, end of word  
**[c<sub>1</sub>..c<sub>2</sub>]**... a single character in range c<sub>1</sub>..c<sub>2</sub>  
**|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**...  $\langle esc \rangle$ ,  $\langle tab \rangle$ ,  $\langle \leftarrow \rangle$ ,  $\langle \leftarrow \rangle$   
**|= \* |+**... 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  $c \in [a..Z]$   
**'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** $\leftarrow$ ... print the active marks list  
**:jumps** $\leftarrow$ ... print the jump list  
**n^0**... go to  $n^{th}$  older position in jump list  
**n^I**... go to  $n^{th}$  newer position in jump list

### Tags

**:ta t** $\leftarrow$ ... jump to tag *t*  
**:nta** $\leftarrow$ ... jump to  $n^{th}$  newer tag in list  
**^]**... jump to the tag under cursor  
**:ts t** $\leftarrow$ ... list matching tags and select one for jump  
**:tj t** $\leftarrow$ ... jump to tag or select one if multiple matches  
**:tags** $\leftarrow$ ... print tag list  
**:n^T** $\leftarrow$ ... jump back to  $n^{th}$  older tag in tag list  
**:npo** $\leftarrow$ ... jump back from  $n^{th}$  older tag in tag list  
**:tl** $\leftarrow$ ... jump to last matching tag  
**:pt t** $\leftarrow$ ... open a preview window to show tag *t*  
**^W**... open a preview window to show tag under cursor  
**:pc** $\leftarrow$  or **^Wz**... close tag preview window

### Key mapping & abbreviations

**:map c e** $\leftarrow$ ... map  $c \mapsto e$  in normal & visual mode  
**:map! c e** $\leftarrow$ ... map  $c \mapsto e$  in insert & command-line mode  
**:unmap** $\leftarrow$  :**unmap!** $\leftarrow$ ... remove mapping *c* for a mode  
**:mk f** $\leftarrow$ ... write current mappings, settings... to file *f*  
**:ab c e** $\leftarrow$ ... add abbreviation for  $c \mapsto e$

**:ab c** $\leftarrow$ ... show abbreviations starting with *c*  
**:una c** $\leftarrow$ ... remove abbreviation *c*

### 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** $\leftarrow$ ... 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  
**^W or :split** $\leftarrow$ ... split window in two  
**^Wn or :new** $\leftarrow$ ... create new empty window  
**^Wo or :on** $\leftarrow$ ... make current window one on screen  
**^Wj ^Wk**... move to window below, above

### Ex commands ( $\leftarrow$ )

**: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  
 **$\langle up \rangle$   $\langle down \rangle$** ... recall commands starting with current one  
**: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** $\leftarrow$  :**!c** $\leftarrow$ ... start a shell, execute command *c* in a shell  
**K**... lookup keyword under cursor with **man**  
**:make** $\leftarrow$ ... start **make**, read errors and jump to first  
**:cn** $\leftarrow$  :**cp** $\leftarrow$ ... display the next, previous error  
**:cl** $\leftarrow$  :**cf** $\leftarrow$ ... list all errors, read errors from file *errorfile*  
**^L**... clear and redraw the screen  
**^G**... show current filename and cursor position  
**g^G**... show cursor column, line, and character position  
**ga**... show ASCII value of character under cursor  
**:redir>f** $\leftarrow$ ... redirect output to file *f*