Helix Modal selection editor

CONCEPTS

Selection first, then action: w selects a word, d deletes it. There is no operator-pending state like in Vim.

Select w, x, s, %
Refine C, K, ;, ,
↓ narrow
Act d, c, y, >
↓ then

Every selection has a cursor; several selections edit in parallel. ; collapses to one and , keeps only the primary.

Keys marked LSP need a language server, TS needs a tree-sitter grammar. Run hx --health to check a language.

MODES & FILES

Esc Return to Normal mode

i / a
Insert before / after selection

I / A Insert at line start / end

o / O
Open line below / above

v Select (extend) mode

:w Save file

:q Quit window

:wq / :x Save and quit

MOVEMENT

h / j / k / l
Left / down / up / right

w / b / e
Next word start / previous start / end

W / B / E Same, for WORDs

f / t Find / till next char

F / T Find / till previous char

Ctrl + u / Ctrl + d
Half page up / down

PageUp / PageDown
Page up / down

G Go to line number

MOVEMENT (cont.)

Ctrl + o / Ctrl + i
Jumplist back / forward

GOTO & MATCH

g › g
File start (or line number)

g › e End of file

g › d Go to definition (LSP)

g › r Go to references (LSP)

g › y
Go to type definition (LSP)

m › s › <char>
Surround selection with char

m › i › <obj>
Select inside text object

m › a › <obj>
Select around text object

EDITING

d Delete selection

c
Change selection (delete + insert)

y Yank (copy)

p / P Paste after / before

u / U Undo / redo

R Replace with yanked text

> / < Indent / unindent

Alt + d / Alt + c
Delete / change without yanking

Ctrl + c Toggle comment

SELECTIONS

x
Select line, again extends down

% Select whole file

s
Select regex matches inside selection

C Add cursor on next line

; Collapse to a single cursor

, Keep only primary selection

SELECTIONS (cont.)

Alt + o / Alt + i
Expand / shrink syntax node (TS)

SEARCH

/ Search forward (regex)

n / N Next / previous match

*
Search for selection as a word

Space › /
Search the whole workspace

v › n
Add next match to the selection

SPACE MENU & PICKERS

Space › f
File picker (workspace root)

Space › b Buffer picker

Space › s
Document symbols (LSP)

Space › a Code actions (LSP)

Space › r
Rename symbol (LSP)

Space › k Hover docs (LSP)

Space › ? Command palette

Space › y / Space › p
Yank / paste via system clipboard

] › d / [› d
Next / previous diagnostic (LSP)

PICKER & COMPLETION

Ctrl + n / Ctrl + p
Next / previous entry

Enter Open selected

WINDOWS & SHELL

Ctrl + w › v / Ctrl + w › s
Vertical / horizontal split

Ctrl + w › h/j/k/l
Move between splits

|
Pipe selections through a command