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

`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

`>` / `<` Indent / unindent

`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

`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` › `g` Changed files picker

`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