Vim Modal text editor

START HERE

- `i` Insert before cursor
- `/` Search forward
- `Esc` Back to Normal mode
- `.` Repeat last change
- `:w` Save
- `:q` Quit
- `d` › `d` Delete line
- `u` Undo

Normal commands —`i a o` →— **Insert** typing —`Esc` →— **Normal** commands —`v V Ctrl+V` →— **Visual** select

Normal mode is the hub

CONCEPTS

Vim has modes. Normal mode is home: keys are commands. Press Esc to return to it.

Commands read like a sentence: operator + motion, e.g. d w deletes a word, c i " changes inside quotes.

Prefix a count to repeat: 3 d d deletes three lines, d 2 w two words.

MODES & FILES

`i` Insert before cursor

`Esc` Back to Normal mode

Ctrl+[or Ctrl+C also leave Insert mode.

`v` / `V`
Visual: characters / lines

`:w` Save file

`:q` Quit window

`:wq` / `ZZ` Save and quit

ZZ only writes if something changed.

`:q!` Quit and discard changes

`:e` › *<file>* Edit another file

MOTIONS

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

MOTIONS (cont.)

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

`0` / `^` / `$`
Line start / first char / end

`g` › `g` / `G` First / last line

`{` / `}`
Paragraph back / forward

`Ctrl`+`D` / `Ctrl`+`U`
Half page down / up

`f` › *<c>* / `t` › *<c>*
To / before character on line

Repeat with ; and reverse with ,

`;` / `,` Repeat / reverse f t

`%` Jump to matching bracket

`H` / `M` / `L`
Top / middle / bottom of screen

<n> › `G` Go to line n

`Ctrl`+`O` / `Ctrl`+`I`
Older / newer jump position

INSERT

`a` Append after cursor

`I` / `A` Insert at line start / end

`o` / `O`
Open line below / above

`Ctrl`+`R` › *<reg>*
Insert register contents

INSERT (cont.)

`Ctrl`+`N` / `Ctrl`+`P`
Complete word next / previous

OPERATORS

`d` › `d` Delete line

`d` › *<motion>* Delete (cut)

`D` Delete to end of line

`c` › *<motion>*
Change: delete and insert

`c` › `c` / `C`
Change line / to end

`c` › `w` Change word

cw acts like ce when on a non-blank.

`y` › *<motion>* Yank (copy)

`y` › `y` Yank line

`x` / `X`
Delete char under / before

`r` › *<c>*
Replace one character

`u` Undo

`Ctrl`+`R` Redo

`.` Repeat last change

Works for changes and puts, not for Ex commands.

`p` / `P`
Put after / before cursor

`>` › `>` / `<` › `<`
Indent / outdent line

OPERATORS (cont.)

`J` Join lines with a space

`Ctrl`+`A` / `Ctrl`+`X`
Increment / decrement number

Operator + motion

Keys	Effect
`d i w`	delete word
`c i "`	change inside quotes
`y a p`	yank paragraph
`d t ,`	delete up to comma
`> i {`	indent block

TEXT OBJECTS

`i` › `w` / `a` › `w`
Word / word with space

`i` › `"` / `a` › `"`
Inside / around double quotes

i' and i` work the same way.

`i` › `(` / `a` › `(`
Inside / around parentheses

b is a synonym: ib, ab.

`i` › `{` / `a` › `{`
Inside / around braces

Text objects work from anywhere inside; no need to move to the start first. Use them after an operator or in Visual mode.

VISUAL MODE

`v` Characterwise Visual

`V` Linewise Visual

`Ctrl`+`V` Blockwise Visual

VISUAL MODE (cont.)

`g` › `v`
Reselect last Visual area

`Ctrl`+`V` › `I`
Insert on all block lines

Press Esc to apply to every line.

`:` Ex command on selection

Vim fills in '<,'> for the range.

Select first, then act: Visual mode takes the same operators (d y c > = and so on).

SEARCH & REPLACE

`/` › *<pat>* Search forward

`?` › *<pat>* Search backward

`n` / `N` Next / previous match

`*` / `#`
Search word under cursor

g and g# skip the whole-word match.*

`:noh` Clear search highlight

`:s/<a>/<b>/`
Replace first on line

`:%s/<a>/<b>/g`
Replace in whole file

`:%s/<a>/<b>/gc`
Replace with confirmation

y yes, n no, a all, q quit, l last.

`:g/<pat>/d`
Delete matching lines

REGISTERS & MACROS

`"` › *<a-z>* › `y`
Yank into named register

`"` › *<a-z>* › `p`
Put from named register

System clipboard

Keys	Effect
`"+y`	yank to clipboard
`"+p`	put from clipboard

`"` › `0` › `p` Put last yank

Deletes do not overwrite register 0.

`q` › *<a-z>*
Record macro, q again stops

`@` › *<a-z>* Play macro

`@` › `@` Replay last macro

WINDOWS & BUFFERS

`Ctrl`+`W` › `s` / `v`
Split horizontal / vertical

`Ctrl`+`W` › `h/j/k/l`
Move to window left/down/up/right

`:ls` List buffers

`:b` › *<n>* Go to buffer n

`Ctrl`+`^` Toggle alternate file

FOLDS & MISC

`:set` › `nu` Show line numbers