Vim Modal text editor

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

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

`:w` Save file

`:q` Quit window

`:wq` / `ZZ` Save and quit

`:q!` Quit and discard changes

MOTIONS

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

`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 / reverse f t

`%` Jump to matching bracket

<n> › `G` Go to line n

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

INSERT

`a` Append after cursor

INSERT (cont.)

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

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

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

`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

`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

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

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

`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

TEXT OBJECTS (cont.)

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

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

`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

`g` › `v` Reselect last Visual area

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

`:` Ex command on selection

SEARCH & REPLACE

`/` › *<pat>* Search forward

`?` › *<pat>* Search backward

`n` / `N` Next / previous match

`*` / `#`
Search word under cursor

`: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

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

REGISTERS & MACROS

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

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

`@` › *<a-z>* Play macro