

Simple VIM Reference

When you first open the VIM editor, you are in the **command mode** of the editor. The command mode is not an edit mode; it's just for typing commands.

Insertion mode is where you can type text normally. (Like in Windows Notepad)

To get into insertion mode, type `i` (abbreviation for insert).

To get into command mode, press the Esc key.

If you're ever not sure which mode you're in, just press the Esc key and you'll be in command mode for sure.

The following commands are executed in command mode.

Copy & Paste

Press `v`. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight text)

Use the arrow keys (or `h,j,k,l,w,b,$`) to highlight.

Press `y` to yank, `p` to paste. (shift-p to open up a line above and paste)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Copy a word | <code>yw</code> |
| Copy a line | <code>yy</code> |
| Copy from cursor to end of line | <code>y\$</code> |

Copy & Paste (with Registers)

Press `v`. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight text)

Use the arrow keys (or `h,j,k,l,w,b,$`) to highlight.

Type `"ay` to yank into register a.

Type `"ap` to paste from register a.

Deleting

Press `v`. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight text)

Use the arrow keys (or `h,j,k,l,w,b,$`) keys to highlight and press `d`

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Delete character | <code>x</code> |
| Delete word | <code>dw</code> |
| Delete word and insert text | <code>cw</code> |
| Delete line | <code>dd</code> |
| Delete to end of line | <code>d\$</code> |

Indenting

Press `v` and then arrow keys (or `h,j,k,l,w,$`) to highlight lines of text.

Type `>` or `<` to indent right or left. (to indent more, type `2>` or `3>`)

(to change your indenting/tabbing to use spaces and not tabs, type `:set et`)

(to set auto-indenting, type `:set ai`)

(to set the tab-size, type `:set ts=2` (or whatever number you want)

(also, for tabbing-size, set shiftwidth (`>`) by typing `:set sw=2`)

Navigation

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Go up | <code>k</code> |
| Go down | <code>j</code> |
| Go left | <code>h</code> |
| Go right | <code>l</code> |

Go right a word `w`
Go left a word `b`
Go to beginning of file `gg`
Go to end of file `G`
Go 22 lines down `22j`
Go to end of line `$`
Go to beginning of non-whitespace part of line `^`
Go right 5 words `5w`

Insert Text

Insert at cursor `i`
Insert after cursor `a` (useful when at the end of a line)
Open a line below cursor and insert `o`
Open a line above cursor and insert `shift-o`

Quitting VIM

Type `:q` to quit the editor.

Saving a file

Type `:w` to write to the file.

Search & Replace

Search `/` (after the slash put whatever you want to find and press the enter key)

Find next `n`
Find previous `N`

Turn off highlighting (after a search) `:noh`
Find next instance of a word that your cursor is over `*`
Search and replace from current line to end of file `:/s/search/replace/gc` (the `gc` means global and confirm)

Shell (Exit temporarily to a shell)

Type `:sh` (To come back to VIM from the shell type `exit`)

Split Window Editing

Type `:sp` followed by the filename.

Go to window above `ctrl-w-k`
Go to window below `ctrl-w-j`

Maximize window size `ctrl-w _`
(the underscore is NOT pressed at the same time as the `ctrl-w`)

Make all windows equal size `ctrl-w =`
(the equals sign is NOT pressed at the same time as the `ctrl-w`)

Undo a Command

Undo `u`
Redo an undo `ctrl-r`

View Directory & File Explorer

Type `:S` (the S is uppercase)

This will split the window and open up a file explorer.
Use the `<enter>` key to select directories or to open files.