

## Commands for Vi

### Commands Used to Start, Exit, Read and Write Files in vi

Command	Usage
<code>vi myfile</code>	Start the <b>vi</b> editor and edit the <b>myfile</b> file
<code>vi -r myfile</code>	Start <b>vi</b> and edit myfile in recovery mode from a system crash
<code>:r file2&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Read in <b>file2</b> and insert at current position
<code>:w&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Write to the file
<code>:w myfile&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Write out the file to myfile
<code>:w! file2&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Overwrite <b>file2</b>
<code>:x&lt;ret&gt;</code> or <code>:wq&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Exit <b>vi</b> and write out modified file
<code>:q&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Quit <b>vi</b>
<code>:q!&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Quit <b>vi</b> even though modifications have not been saved

### Keystrokes Used When Changing Cursor Position in vi

Keys	Usage
arrow keys	To move up, down, left and right
j or <ret>	To move one line down
k	To move one line up
h or Backspace	To move one character left
l or Space	To move one character right
0	To move to beginning of line
\$	To move to end of line
w	To move to beginning of next word
b	To move back to beginning of preceding word
:0 <ret> or 1G	To move to beginning of file
:n <ret> or nG	To move to line n
:\$ <ret> or G	To move to last line in file
Ctrl-f or Page Down	To move forward one page
Ctrl-b or Page Up	To move backward one page
^_	To refresh and center screen

## Searching for Text in vi

Command	Usage
<code>/pattern&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Search forward for pattern
<code>?string&lt;ret&gt;</code>	Search backward for pattern

Keys	Usage
n	Move to next occurrence of search pattern
N	Move to previous occurrence of search pattern

## Working with Text in vi

Keys	Usage
a	Append text after cursor; stop upon Escape key
A	Append text at end of current line; stop upon Escape key
i	Insert text before cursor; stop upon Escape key
I	Insert text at beginning of current line; stop upon Escape key
o	Start a new line below current line, insert text there; stop upon Escape key
O	Start a new line above current line, insert text there; stop upon Escape key
r	Replace character at current position
R	Replace text starting with current position; stop upon Escape key
x	Delete character at current position
Nx	Delete N characters, starting at current position
dw	Delete the word at the current position
D	Delete the rest of the current line
dd	Delete the current line
Ndd or dNd	Delete N lines
u	Undo the previous operation
yy	Yank (copy) the current line and put it in buffer
Nyy or yNy	Yank (copy) N lines and put it in buffer
p	Paste at the current position the yanked line or lines from the buffer