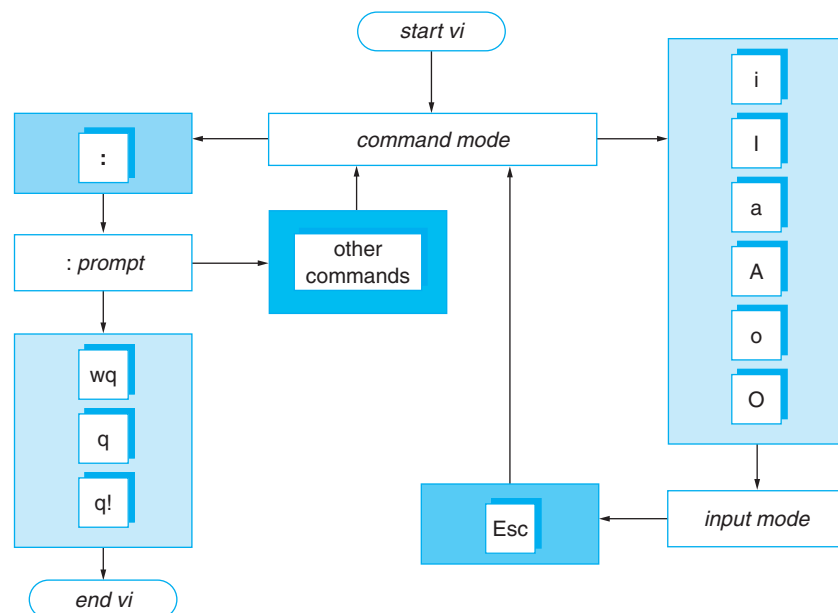


Summary of vi Editor Commands

This appendix contains a summary of all the vi editor commands covered in this book. For more information, refer to Chapters 4 and 6. Figure D.1 will refresh your memory of the vi editor modes of operation.

Figure D.1
The vi Editor Modes of Operation



The vi editor

vi is a screen editor you can use to create files. vi has two modes: the command mode and the text input mode. To start vi, type vi, press **[Spacebar]**, and type the name of the file. Several keys place vi in the text input mode, and **[Esc]** always returns vi to the command mode.

The change mode keys

These keys change vi from the command mode to the text input mode. Each key places vi in the text input mode in a different manner. **[Esc]** places vi back in the command mode.

| Key | Operation |
|----------|---|
| i | Places the text you enter before the character that the cursor is on. |
| I | Places the text you enter at the beginning of the current line. |
| a | Places the text you enter after the character that the cursor is on. |
| A | Places the text you enter after the last character of the current line. |
| o | Opens a blank line below the current line and places the cursor at the beginning of the new line. |
| O | Opens a blank line above the current line and places the cursor at the beginning of the new line. |

Correcting text keys

These keys are applicable in the command mode only.

| Key | Operation |
|-----------|---|
| x | Deletes the character specified by the cursor position. |
| dd | Deletes the line specified by the cursor position. |
| u | Undoes the most recent change. |
| U | Undoes all the changes on the current line. |
| r | Replaces a character that the cursor is on. |
| R | Replaces characters starting from the cursor position, and changes vi to the text mode. |
| . | Repeats the last text changes. |

Cursor movement keys

These keys allow you to move around in your document in command mode.

| Key | Operation |
|---------------------------|---|
| h or [Left Arrow] | Moves the cursor position one space to the left. |
| j or [Down Arrow] | Moves the cursor position one line down. |
| k or [Up Arrow] | Moves the cursor position one line up. |
| l or [Right Arrow] | Moves the cursor position one space to the right. |
| \$ | Moves the cursor position to the end of the current line. |
| w | Moves the cursor position forward one word. |
| b | Moves the cursor position back one word. |
| e | Moves the cursor position to the end of the word. |
| 0 (zero) | Moves the cursor position to the beginning of the current line. |
| [Return] | Moves the cursor position to the beginning of the next line. |
| [Spacebar] | Moves the cursor position one space to the right. |
| [Backspace] | Moves the cursor position one space to the left. |

The quit commands

With the exception of the **ZZ** command, these commands start with **:**, and you must end a command line with [Return].

| Key | Operation |
|-----------|--|
| wq | Writes (saves) the contents of the buffer and quits the vi editor. |
| w | Writes (saves) the contents of the buffer but stays in the editor. |
| q | Quits the editor. |
| q! | Quits the editor and abandons the contents of the buffer. |
| ZZ | Writes (saves) the contents of the buffer and quits the vi editor. |

The search commands

These keys allow you to search forward or backward in your file for a pattern.

| Key | Operation |
|----------|--|
| / | Searches forward for a specified pattern. |
| ? | Searches backward for a specified pattern. |

Cut-and-paste keys

These keys are used to rearrange text in your file.
They are applicable in vi's command mode.

| Key | Operation |
|----------|---|
| d | Deletes a specified portion of the text and stores it in a temporary buffer; this buffer can be accessed by using the put operator. |
| y | Copies a specified portion of the text into a temporary buffer; this buffer can be accessed by using the put operator. |
| P | Places the contents of a specified buffer above the cursor position. |
| p | Places the contents of a specified buffer after the cursor position |

Scope keys

Using the vi commands in combination with the scope keys gives you more control in your editing tasks.

| Key | Operation |
|-----------------|---|
| \$ | The scope is from the cursor position to the end of the current line. |
| 0 (zero) | The scope is from just before the cursor position to the beginning of the current line. |
| e or w | The scope is from the cursor position to the end of the current word. |
| b | The scope is from the letter before the cursor backward to the beginning of the current word. |

Paging keys

The paging keys are used to scroll a larger portion of your file.

| Key | Operation |
|-----------------|--|
| [Ctrl-d] | Scrolls the cursor down toward the end of the file, usually 12 lines at a time. |
| [Ctrl-u] | Scrolls the cursor up toward the beginning of the file, usually 12 lines at a time. |
| [Ctrl-f] | Scrolls the cursor down (forward) toward the end of the file, usually 24 lines at a time. |
| [Ctrl-b] | Scrolls the cursor up (backward) toward the beginning of the file, usually 24 lines at a time. |

Setting the vi environment

You can customize the behavior of the vi editor by setting the vi environment options. You use the **set** command to change the options' values.

| Option | Abbreviation | Operation |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| autoindent | ai | Aligns the new lines with the beginning of the previous ones. |
| ignorecase | ic | Ignores the uppercase/lowercase difference in search operations. |
| magic | | Allows the use of the special characters in a search. |
| number | nu | Displays line numbers. |
| report | | Informs you of the number of lines affected by the last command. |
| scroll | | Sets the number of lines to scroll when [Ctrl-d] command is given. |
| shiftwidth | sw | Sets the number of spaces to indent; used with the autoindent option. |
| showmode | smd | Displays the vi editor modes in the right corner of the screen. |
| terse | | Shortens the error messages. |
| wrapmargin | wm | Sets the right margin to a specified number of characters. |

