Vim stands for Vi IMproved

Learn to use the VIM text editor

Cursor movement

h	move cursor left
j	move cursor down
k	move cursor up
l	move cursor right
w	jump forwards to the start of a word
W	jump forwards to the start of a Word containing punctuation
e	jump forwards to the end of a word
E	jump forwards to the end of a Word containing punctuation
b	jump backwards to the start of a word
B	jump Backwards to the start of a Word containing punctuation
0	jump to the start of the line
^	jump to first non-blank character of line
$	jump to the end of the line
H	jump (High) to top of page
M	jump to Middle of page
L	jump (Low) to bottom of page
gg	go to the first line of the document
G	go to the last line of the document
5G	go to line 5
9|	go to column 9

Editing

r	replace a single character
R	replace rest of line (type over)
J	join line below to the current one
cc	change (replace) entire line
cw	change (replace) to end of word
c$	change (replace) to end of line
C	change (replace) to end of line

s	delete character and substitute text
S	delete line and substitute text (same as cc)
u	undo
Ctrl+r	redo
.	repeat last command

Insert mode - inserting/appending text

i	insert before the cursor
I	Insert at the beginning of the line
a	append (insert) after the cursor
A	Append (Insert) at the end of the line
o	open (append) a new line below the current line
O	Open (Append) a new line above the current line
ea	insert (append) at the end of word
Esc	exit insert mode

Cut and paste

yy	yank (copy) a line
2yy	yank (copy) 2 lines
yw	yank (copy) word
y$	yank (copy) to end of line
p	put (paste) after cursor
P	Put (Paste) before cursor
dd	delete (cut) a line
2dd	delete (cut) 2 lines
dw	delete (cut) word
D	delete (cut) to the end of the line
d$	delete (cut) to the end of the line

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x	delete (cut) character
xp	delete and paste (transpose letters)

Marking text (visual mode)

v	start visual mode, mark lines, then do a command (like y-yank)
V	start line wise visual mode
Ctrl+v	start visual block mode
o	move to other end of marked area
O	move to other corner of block
aw	mark a word
ab	a block with ()
aB	a block with {}
ib	inner block with ()
iB	inner block with {}
Esc	exit visual mode

Visual commands

>	shift text right
<	shift text left
y	yank (copy) marked text
d	delete marked text
~	switch case

Other:

:help	VIM internal help pages
:ce	center the line
:%!fmt	reformat all paragraphs
:%!sort	sort contents of file
:r!date	insert current date
:r!cal	insert current month
:r filename	insert a file
:number	number lines

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Remember

`Caps Lock`   is your enemy in VIM

`Esc`   is your friend

Exiting

`:q`	quit (fails if any unsaved changes)
`:q!`	quit without saving changes
`:w`	write (save) the file, but don't exit
`:w file2`	write to different file
`:wq`	write (save) the file, and exit
`:x`	write (save) and quit
`ZZ`	exit, but don't modify unchanged file

Search and replace

`/pattern`	search for pattern
`?pattern`	search backward for pattern
`n`	repeat search in same direction
`N`	repeat search in opposite direction
`:%s/old/new/g`	replace all old with new throughout file
`:%s/old/new/gc`	replace all old with new throughout file **after confirmations**

Working with multiple files

`:e filename`	edit a file in a new buffer
`:bnext` `:bn`	go to the next buffer
`:bprev` `:bp`	go to the previous buffer
`:bd`	delete a buffer (close a file)

Working with split screens

`:sp filename`	open a file in a new buffer and split window
`:vsp filename`	open a file in a new buffer and vertically split window
`Ctrl+ws`	split window
`Ctrl+ww`	switch windows
`Ctrl+wq`	quit a window
`Ctrl+wv`	split window vertically
`Ctrl+wh`	move cursor to next buffer (right)
`Ctrl+wl`	move cursor to previous buffer (left)

Folding

`:help **fold.txt**`	Built-in info file
`:set foldenable`	Recommended
`:set foldcolumn=8`	Recommended
`zfap`	fold a paragraph
`zo`	open a fold
`zc`	close a fold
`zD`	delete recursively
`zE`	eliminate all folds
`:mkview`	do before quiting!!!
`:loadview`	load previous folding

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Begin

$vimtutor	the VIM tutorial
$vim	open empty file
$vim filename	open filename
$vim fl1 fl2 ...	open multiple files
$vim -O fl1 fl2	open files in vert split screen
$vim -o fl1 fl2	open files in horz split screen
:help intro.txt	Introduction

Package to install

`vim-gnome`	graphical VIM showing keystroke clues {1st choice}
`cream`	{choice secondary to above} VIM macros that make VIM easier to use for beginners

Tools

$file filename	determine file type
$gvim	run VIM graphically
$man vim	manual page for VIM
$view filename	open file read-only
$vimdiff fl1 fl2	edit multiple files with VIM showing differences
:setlocal spell spelllang=en_us	for spell checking
:help color-xterm	for changing colors