

# Vi tips

## vi editor tips

### Keys

<b>Key(s):</b>	<b>Movement:</b>
0 (zero)	1 <sup>st</sup> column on the line
^	1 <sup>st</sup> <b>non-blanc</b> char on line
\$	Last char on line
g_	Last <b>non-blanc</b> char on line
w	Next word
W	Next word and <b>skip</b> interpunction
e	End of current word
E	End of current word <b>incl</b> .interpunction
b	Begin of current word
B	Begin of current word <b>incl</b> .interpunction
ge	End of previous word
gE	End of previous word and <b>skip</b> interpunction
O	Insert new line and switch to insert mode
<b>Key(s):</b>	<b>Action:</b>
x	Delete char <b>under</b> cursor
X	Delete char <b>before</b> cursor
r	Replace char under cursor with next typed char
d	Delete chars until position of next command
dd	Delete line
y	Copy text until position of next command
yy	Copy line
p	Paste text <b>after</b> cursor
P	Paste text <b>before</b> cursor
<b>Key(s):</b>	<b>Selection:</b>
V	Start selecting block of text
x	Cut block of text

c	Copy block of text
iw	Word
aw	Word <b>incl</b> spaces
is	Sentence
as	Sentence <b>incl</b> spaces
ip	Paragraph
ap	Paragraph <b>incl</b> spaces and <b>empty</b> lines
i{	Block between brackets
a{	Block <b>incl</b> brackets
i<	Block between < >
a<	Block <b>incl</b> < >
i{	Block between { }
a{	Block <b>incl</b> { }
i"	Block between " "
a"	Block <b>incl</b> " "
i`	Block between ` `
a`	Block <b>incl</b> ` `
<b>Search:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
/text	Search for text starting at cursor
n	Find next
N	Find previous
//	Repeat last search
*	Search forward for word currently under cursor
#	Search backwards for word currently under cursor
:set hlsearch	Highlights all matches
:set nohlsearch	Disable ^
:nohl	Don't show highlights from last search
:set incsearch	Enables incremental search
:set noincsearch	Disables ^

u undo

cut multiple lines: ###yy

delete rest of line from cursor: SHIFT-d

## To open multiple files on a window

- Horizontal split

```
vi -o file-one file-two
```

- Vertical split

```
vi -0 file-one file-two
```

- Switch between the panes you are using.

```
CTRL + W + Left key to activate left windows
```

```
CTRL + W + Right key to activate right windows
```

```
CTRL + W + Up key> to activate to windows above current one
```

```
CTRL + W + Down key> to activate to windows down current one
```

- Split Open one file at a time

```
vi file-one
```

- To open the second file, go to the command mode (Esc)

```
:new file-two
```

OR

```
:split file-two
```

- to split vertically

```
:vsplit
```

- Typ 'CTRL-w w' to switch between the windows
- Open new file:

```
:e newfile
```

## Tabs

To open Vi with multiple tabs open:

```
vi -p /var/log/*.log
```

- switch between tabs with *gt*
- open new tab

```
:tabnew
```

or

```
:tabe file
```

to open new file in new tab

# Search and Replace

Go in command mode and type:

Replace First occurrence of string

```
:%s/string-to-replace/replace-with-string/
```

Replace All occurrence of string

```
:%s/string-to-replace/replace-with-string/g
```

Replace All occurrence of string with confirmation

```
:%s/string-to-replace/replace-with-string/gc
```

## avoid staircase effect when pasting

If you're working in Vim and paste something into the terminal, sometimes you'll get a "staircase" effect where each line is progressively spaced farther outward, like so:

```
line 1
  line 2
    line 3
      line 4
```

Obviously, this isn't usually desirable.

To correct this, you can enable paste to prevent the staircase effect. In command mode, type:

```
:set paste
```

This isn't on by default. When paste is enabled, it disables mapping and some other functions, so you probably want to know how to turn it off as well:

```
:set nopaste
```

## Highlighting

syntax highlighting for programming languages

```
:syntax on
```

# Store settings

Put your most used commands, like *:syntax on* in *~/.vimrc*

## statusline

```
set statusline=%F%m%r%h%w%=\ [%Y]\ [%{&ff}]\ [%04l,%04v]\ [%p%]\ [%L]
```

in */etc/vimrc*

---

Revision #3

Created 2026-04-01 17:12:01 CEST by Philip

Updated 2026-04-13 19:24:55 CEST by Philip