

When you first open the VIM editor, you are in the **command mode** of the editor. The command mode is where you type in awesome VIM commands to manipulate text. **Insertion mode** is just 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.

<p><b>Copy &amp; Paste</b></p> <p>Press <b>v</b>. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight stuff)</p> <p>Use the arrow keys (or <b>h,j,k,l,w,b,\$</b>) to highlight</p> <p>Press <b>y</b> to yank, <b>p</b> to paste. (<b>shift-p</b> to open up a line above and paste)</p> <p>Copy a word <b>yw</b> Copy a line <b>yy</b> Copy from cursor to end of line <b>y\$</b></p>	<p><b>Navigation</b></p> <p>Go up <b>k</b> Go down <b>j</b> Go left <b>h</b> Go right <b>l</b> Go right a word <b>w</b> Go left a word <b>b</b> Go to beginning of file <b>gg</b> Go to end of file <b>G</b> Go 22 lines down <b>22j</b> Go to end of line <b>\$</b> Go to beginning of non-whitespace part of line <b>^</b></p> <p>Go right 5 words <b>5w</b></p>	<p><b>Shell (Exit temporarily to a shell)</b></p> <p>Type <b>:sh</b></p> <p>To come back to VIM from the shell type <b>exit</b></p> <p><b>Split Window Editing</b></p> <p>Type <b>:sp</b> followed by the filename.</p> <p>Go to window above <b>ctrl-w-k</b> Go to window below <b>ctrl-w-j</b></p> <p>Maximize window size <b>ctrl-w _</b> (the underscore is NOT pressed at the same time as the <b>ctrl-w</b>)</p>
<p><b>Copy &amp; Paste (with Registers)</b></p> <p>Press <b>v</b>. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight stuff)</p> <p>Use the arrow keys (or <b>h,j,k,l,w,b,\$</b>) to highlight</p> <p>Type <b>"ay</b> to yank into register a. Type <b>"ap</b> to paste from register a.</p>	<p><b>Insert Text</b></p> <p>Insert at cursor <b>i</b> Insert after cursor <b>a</b> (useful when at the end of a line) Open a line below cursor and insert <b>o</b> Open a line above cursor and insert <b>shift-o</b></p>	<p>Make all windows equal size <b>ctrl-w =</b> (the equals sign is NOT pressed at the same time as the <b>ctrl-w</b>)</p>
<p><b>Deleting</b></p> <p>Press <b>v</b>. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight stuff)</p> <p>Use the arrow keys (or <b>h,j,k,l,w,b,\$</b>) keys to highlight and press <b>d</b></p> <p>Delete character <b>x</b> Delete word <b>dw</b> Delete word and insert text <b>cw</b> Delete line <b>dd</b> Delete to end of line <b>D</b></p>	<p><b>Quitting VIM</b></p> <p>Type <b>:q</b> to quit the editor.</p> <p><b>Saving a file</b></p> <p>Type <b>:w</b> to write to the file.</p>	<p><b>Undo a Command</b></p> <p>Undo <b>u</b> Redo an undo <b>ctrl-r</b></p>
<p><b>Indenting</b></p> <p>Press <b>v</b> and then arrow keys (or <b>h,j,k,l,w,\$</b>) to highlight lines of text.</p> <p>Type <b>&gt;</b> or <b>&lt;</b> to indent right or left.</p> <p>(to indent more, type <b>2&gt;</b> or <b>3&gt;</b>)</p> <p>(to change your indenting/tabbing to use spaces and not tabs, type <b>:set et</b>)</p> <p>(to set auto-indenting, type <b>:set ai</b>)</p> <p>(to set the tab-size, type <b>:set ts=2</b> (or whatever number you want))</p> <p>(also, for tabbing-size, set shiftwidth (<b>&gt;</b>) by typing <b>:set sw=2</b>)</p>	<p><b>Search &amp; Replace</b></p> <p>Search <b>/</b> (after the slash put whatever you want to find and press the <b>enter</b> key)</p> <p>Find next <b>n</b> Find previous <b>N</b></p> <p>Turn off highlighting (after a search) <b>:noh</b></p> <p>Find next instance of a word that your text cursor is over <b>*</b></p> <p>Search and replace from current line to end of file <b>:/search/replace/gc</b> (the <b>gc</b> means global and confirm)</p>	<p><b>View Directory &amp; File Explorer</b></p> <p>Type <b>:S</b> (the <b>S</b> is uppercase)</p> <p>This will split the window and open up a file explorer. Use the <b>enter</b> key to select directories or to open files.</p>