VIM CHEAT SHEET

Open, move, and edit

> Open, save, and quit

`vim README.md` Open a file

`Esc` Back to normal mode

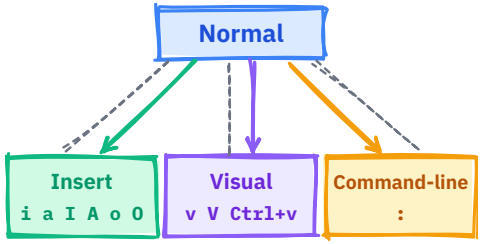
`:w` Save

`:q` Quit

`:wq` Save and quit

`:q!` Quit without saving

> Modes



Esc takes you back to normal

> Start typing

`i` Type before the cursor

`a` Type after the cursor

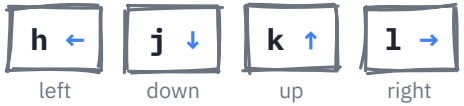
`I` Type at the start of the line

`A` Type at the end of the line

`o` Open a new line below

`O` Open a new line above

> Move the cursor



`w` Next word

`b` Previous word

`0` Start of the line

`$` End of the line

`f` To the next character you type

> Jump and search

`gg` Top of the file

`G` Bottom of the file

`:38` Line 38

`/` Search for the word you type

`n` Next match

> Delete, copy, and undo

`x` Delete a character

`dd` Delete the line

`3dd` Delete 3 lines (count first)

`yy` Copy the line

`p` Paste below (deleted lines too)

`P` Paste above

`u` Undo

`Ctrl+r` Redo

> Operator + motion

`d` + `w` → delete a word

What to do	How far
`d` delete	`w` to the next word
`c` change	`$` to the end of the line
`y` copy	

`dw` Delete a word

`cw` Change a word

`d$` Delete to the end of the line

`c$` Change to the end of the line

`.` Repeat the last change

> Text objects

```
see the quick fox
```

`diw` the word only
`daw` with the space after it

`diw` Delete the word under the cursor

`daw` Delete the word and its space

`ci"` Change inside quotes

`ci(` Change inside parentheses

> Macros

`qa` Start recording into a

`q` Stop recording

`@a` Play it back

`@@` Play it again

`3@a` Play it 3 times

> Search and replace

`:%s/old/new/g`

`%` whole file
`s` substitute
`g` every match on the line
`old` what to find
`new` what to put

`:s/2025/2026/`
Replace on this line

`:%s/http:/https:/g`
Replace every match in the file

`:%s/btn/button/gc`
Confirm each one (y / n)

> Visual mode

`v` Select characters

`V` Select lines

`Ctrl+v` Select a block

`d` Delete the selection

`y` Copy the selection

`>` Indent the selected lines

`I` Type at the start of each line in a block

CC BY 4.0 WebTerm Learn · October 2026 edition · Practice every command in a browser terminal at **learn.webterm.app**