

vi Screen Editor

Command syntax

vi [*-t tag*] [*+command*] [*-l*] [*-r*] [*-wn*] [*-x*] *name...*

The vi (visual) editor is a display-oriented text editor available on UNIX® systems. It can be used to create and modify text files only. All commands are case sensitive.

Options

- t tag** Specifies a list of tag files. Tag files are preceded by a backslash (\) and are separated by spaces. This option must be always the first entry.
- +command** Tells the editor to begin by executing the specified command. (e.g., *+/pattern* to search for a pattern).
- l** Sets the showmatch and lisp options for editing LISP code.
- rname** Retrieves the last saved version of the named file in the event of an editor or system crash. If no file is specified, a list of saved files is produced.
- wn** Sets the default window size to n. This option is useful for starting in a small window on dialups or using a large window on workstations.

Text insertion commands

- a** Appends text after cursor
- A** Inserts text before cursor
- I** Inserts text at the beginning of the line
- o** Opens new line below the current line for text insertion
- O** Opens new line above current line for text insertion.
- ** Overwrite last character
- <ESC>** Terminator for each of above commands

Screen control commands

- ^L** Reprints current screen
- ^Y** Exposes one more line on top
- ^E** Exposes one more line at bottom

Paging commands

- ^F** Pages forward one screen
- ^B** Pages back one screen
- ^D** Pages down half screen
- ^U** Pages up half screen

Edit buffer usage commands

- [a-z]n yy** Yanks n lines to the [a-z] buffer. Default is current line.
- [a-z]n p** Puts n yanked text lines from the a-z buffer, after the cursor.

Text change commands

- cw** Changes characters of current word until stopped with escape key.
- c\$** Changes text up to end of line.
- C, c\$** Changes remaining text on current line until ESC key is pressed.
- ~** Changes case of current character.
- xp** Transposes current and following characters.
- J** joins current line with next line.
- rx** Replaces current character with x.

Text deletion commands

- dw** Deletes current word
- x** Deletes current character
- dd** Deletes current line
- D, d\$** Deletes from cursor to end of line
- P** Puts back text from previous delete

Exiting vi

- ZZ** Exits and saves changes
- ::wq** Writes changes to current file and quits
- :q** Quits edit session (no changes made)
- :q!** Aborts edit session (changes not saved)

Cursor positioning commands

- j** Moves cursor down one line
- k** Moves cursor up one screen
- h** Moves cursor back one position
- l** Moves cursor forward one position
- <RET>** Moves cursor to beginning of next line
- 0** Moves cursor to beginning of line
- \$** Moves cursor to end of current line
- <SPACE>** Moves cursor forward one character
- nG** Moves cursor to beginning of line number n.
- /pattern** Moves cursor forward to next occurrence of *pattern*.
- ?pattern** Moves cursor back to next occurrence of *pattern*.

Notes: