

## 10.3 vi Quick Reference Guide

All commands in *vi* are preceded by pressing the escape key. Each time a different command is to be entered, the escape key needs to be used. Except where indicated, *vi* is case sensitive.

### Cursor Movement Commands:

(n) indicates a number, and is optional

(n)**h** left (n) space(s)

(n)**j** down (n) space(s)

(n)**k** up (n) space(s)

(n)**l** right (n) space(s)

(The arrow keys usually work also)

**^F** forward one screen

**^B** back one screen

**^D** down half screen

**^U** up half screen

(^ indicates control key; case does not matter)

**H** beginning of top line of screen

**M** beginning of middle line of screen

**L** beginning of last line of screen

**G** beginning of last line of file

(n)**G** move to beginning of line (n)

**0** (zero) beginning of line

**\$** end of line

(n)**w** forward (n) word(s)

(n)**b** back (n) word(s)

**e** end of word

### Inserting Text:

**i** insert text before the cursor

**a** append text after the cursor (does not overwrite other text)

**I** insert text at the beginning of the line

**A** append text to the end of the line

**r** replace the character under the cursor with the next character typed

**R** Overwrite characters until the end of the line (or until escape is pressed to change command)

**o** (alpha o) open new line after the current line to type text

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### Deleting Text:

**dd** deletes current line

(n)**dd** deletes (n) line(s)

(n)**dw** deletes (n) word(s)

**D** deletes from cursor to end of line

**x** deletes current character

(n)**x** deletes (n) character(s)

**X** deletes previous character

### Change Commands:

(n)**cc** changes (n) characters on line(s) until end of the line (or until escape is pressed)

**cw** changes characters of word until end of the word (or until escape is pressed)

(n)**cw** changes characters of the next (n) words

**c\$** changes text to the end of the line

**ct(x)** changes text to the letter (x)

**C** changes remaining text on the current line (until stopped by escape key)

**~** changes the case of the current character

**J** joins the current line and the next line

**u** undo the last command just done on this line

**.** repeats last change

**s** substitutes text for current character

**S** substitutes text for current line

**:s** substitutes new word(s) for old  
:<line nos effected> s/old/new/g

**&** repeats last substitution (:s) command.

(n)**yy** yanks (n) lines to buffer

**y(n)w** yanks (n) words to buffer

**p** puts yanked or deleted text after cursor

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### File Manipulation:

**:w (file)** writes changes to file (default is current file)

**:wq** writes changes to current file and quits edit session

**:w! (file)** overwrites file (default is current file)

**:q** quits edit session w/no changes made

**:q!** quits edit session and discards changes

**:n** edits next file in argument list

**:f (name)** changes name of current file to (name)

**:r (file)** reads contents of file into current edit at the current cursor position (insert a file)

**!(command)** shell escape

**:r!(command)** inserts result of shell command at cursor position

**ZZ** write changes to current file and exit