Commonly Used vi Commands

Operators

`d`	delete
`p`	paste after cursor
`y`	yank
`i`	insert before cursor
`a`	append after cursor
`r`	replace
`s`	substitute
`c`	change
`!`	shell command

Common Macros

`I`	insert at **BOL** (same as `^i`)
`A`	append at **EOL** (same as `$a`)
`D`	delete to **EOL** (same as `d$`)
`C`	change to **EOL** (same as `c$`)
`R`	replace (overstrike) mode
`o`	open line below cursor
`O`	open line above cursor
`x`	delete one char (same as `dl`)
`ZZ`	save and exit (same as `:wq`)
`:w!`	write file (forced; used to override lack of write permission, etc)
`:q!`	quit without save

Buffers

`"x`	`x` is 0-9: delete buffers
`"x`	`x` is a-z: user buffers
`"X`	`X` is A-Z: append to buffer

Operands

`hjkl`	the cursor movement keys (left, down, up, right)
`wbe`	next word, begin word, end word
`WBE`	same as above, but ignore punctuation
`/`	search for string (use `?` for reverse search)
`%`	find matching `(`, `{`, or `[`
`( )`	beginning of curr/prev sentence, next sentence
`{ }`	beginning of curr/prev paragraph, next paragraph
`[[ ]]`	beginning of curr/prev section, next section
	see **set paragraphs/sections**
n`G`	move to line *n*
`0^$`	move to column 0, first non-space, or **EOL**
`fx`	cursor forward to char `x`
`tx`	cursor forward to char `x` minus 1
`;`	last `f` or `t` again
`,`	last `f` or `t` in other direction
`´x`	(apostrophe `x`) move to line of mark `x`
`` `x ``	(backtic `x`) move exactly to mark `x`
`´´`	(2 apostrophes) move to line of last jump point
`` `` ``	(2 backtics) move exactly to last jump point

Miscellaneous

`u`	undo last buffer change
`U`	undo all changes to line
`.`	perform last change again
`mx`	set mark `x`, `x` is a-z

Numeric arguments may prefix any and all commands, although some don't make sense, ie. `%` or `$`. Interesting examples are `36i-*<ESC>` and `20r_`.

Ex (colon-mode) commands

In the following commands, *file* may be either a filename, or a shell command if prefixed with `!`. Filenames are *globbed* by the shell before **vi** uses them (shell wildcards are processed before the filenames are used). Address ranges may be used immediately after the colon in the commands below. Example address ranges are:

`1,$`	From line 1 to **EOF**.
`10,20`	From line 10 to line 20, inclusive.
`.,.+10`	From current line to current line + 10 (11 lines total).
`'a,'d`	From mark `a` to mark `d`, inclusive.
`/from/,/to/`	From the line containing `from` to the line containing `to`.

Commands which change the file being edited.

`:e` *file*	Edit alternate file; if editing alternate, use `:e #` to return to previous file. *file* may be # for previous file or % for current file.
`:n` *files*	Edits next file as specified on command line; *files* will replace command line filenames with the given names, if specified. Shell wildcards are very useful here. Also command substitution, ie. `:n `grep -l pattern *.c``
`:args`	Lists the files to be edited (modified by `:n`, above).
`:rew`	Restarts editing at first file (rewinds the argument list).

Commands which modify the text buffer or disk file being edited.

`:g/RE/`*cmd*	Globally search for regular expression and execute *cmd*
`:s/RE/str/`*opt*	Substitute `str` for `RE`; use *opt* as option list. Valid options are `c` (confirm), `g` (globally on line), `p` (print after change).

These commands are useful when **file** is replaced with shell command(s) such as "`:w !sort`" or "`:r !date`".

`:w` *file*	Write contents of buffer to *file*
`:r` *file*	Read contents of *file* into buffer after cursor

These commands control the environment in which **vi** operates.

`:set` *opt*	Set/query options; *opt* is option or `all`
`:abbr ab phrase`	Abbreviation `ab` of string `phrase`; remove with `:unab ab`
`:map key str`	Command or input macro for `key` of `str`; remove with `:unmap key`

Here is an example of what my *.exrc* startup file looks like in my **$HOME** directory:

```
set report=1 sw=4 ts=8 wm=10
set ai bf exrc magic nomesg modelines opt smd nows
map! #1 'x=%; echo ${x\%/*}/
```

Some other command settings are `ignorecase` (`ic`), `autowrite` (`aw`), and `showmatch` (`sm`).