vi Basics

Starting vi and dabbling with it

```
vi
i  # get into input mode
:a # add text after the cursor
```

In input mode, type anything you want.

Saving in vi:

Esc

Get out of input mode and into command mode

```
:w vi_file_name  # save as a vi file
```

Enter

If you have saved the file once, just use

Esc

```
:w
```

Enter

Exiting vi:

Esc

```
:q # quit vi
```

If you haven't saved your latest changes, vi will not quit and will tell you to use ! to override.

```
    :q! # quit without saving
```

- We can use : wq to save and quit vi.
- If you want to save a file over an existing file, use :w! existingfilename in command mode. The ! forces vi to overwrite the original.

Adding and deleting text

vi

i

type some you want to add.

Esc

Choose a command, based on what you want to do:

```
 :a   # Adds text after the cursor
 :A   # Adds test after the current line
 :i   # Inserts text before the cursor
 :I   # Inserts text at the beginning of the current line
 :o   # Inserts a blank line after the current line
 :O   # Inserts a blank line after before the current line

 :x   # Deletes one character under the cursor
 :X   # Deletes one character behind the cursor
 :dd  # Deletes the current line
 :5dd # Deletes five lines from the current line
 :r   # Replaces the character under the cursor
 :R   # Replaces the existing text

 :y   # Copies the current line
 :p   # Pastes the copied line
 :u   # Undoes the last change
 :U   # Undoes all changes on the current line
```

Importing files into vi:

```
 vi vi_file
 ESC
 :r import_file
```

Searching and replacing in vi

find a string of text in vi

vi vi_file

Esc

```
    /text    # look for "text"
```

Enter

get the first result, and press N to find the next one.

search and replace in vi:

vi vi_filename

Esc

```
    :%s/text/newtext    # replace "text" with "newtext"
```

Turning off the color in vi

```
    :syntax off
```