

# Vim tips

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# 1 Text manipulation

## 1.1 Searching

Command	Description
/joe/e	cursor set to end of match
/joe/e+1	cursor set to end of match plus 1
/joe/s-2	cursor set to start of match minus 2
/^joe.*fred.*bill/	normal
/^[A-J]\+/	search for lines beginning with one or more A-J
/begin\.*end	search over possible multiple lines
/fred\s*joe/i	any whitespace including newline
/fred\ joe	search for fred or joe
/. *fred&.*joe	search for fred and joe in any order
/\<fred\>/i	search for fred but not alfred or frederick
/\<\d\d\d\d\>	search for exactly 4 digit numbers
/\D\d\d\d\D	search for exactly 4 digit numbers
/\<\d{4}\>	same thing
/\([^\0-9]\ ^)\%.*%	search for absence of a digit or beginning of line
/^\n\{3}	find 3 empty lines
/\ (fred\).*\ (joe\).*\2.*\1	using rexexp memory in a search
/^\ ([^,]*,)\{8}	using rexexp memory in a search
/<\zs[^\>]*\ze>	search for tag contents, ignoring chevrons (:h /\zs)
/<\@<=[^\>]*>\@=	search for tag contents, ignoring chevrons
/<\@<=[^\>]*>\@=	search for tags across possible multiple lines
/i!-p{-}-i	search for multiple line comments
/fred\s*joe/i	any whitespace including newline (\_)
/bugs\(\_\.)*bunny	bugs followed by bunny anywhere in file
:h \_	help
:bufdo /searchstr/	multiple file search (use :rewind to recommence search)
:bufdo %s/searchstr/&/gic	multiple file search better but cheating (n, then a to stop)
?http://www.vim.org/	search backwards for a URL without backslashing
/\c\v([^aeiou]&\a){4}	search for 4 consecutive consonants

### 1.1.1 Search for declaration of subroutine/function under cursor

```
:nmap gx yiw/\(sub\<bar>function\)\s\+<C-R>"<CR>
```

### 1.1.2 Search for visually highlighted text

```
:vmap <silent> // y/<C-R>"<CR>
```

```
:vmap <silent> // y/<C-R>=escape("@", '\./.*^~[]')<CR><CR> (with spec chars)
```

## 1.2 Substitution

```
:%s/fred/joe/igc | general substitute command
```

## 1.2 Substitution

## 1 TEXT MANIPULATION

```

:%s/\r//g
:%s/\r\r/g
:%s= *$==
:%s= \+$==
:%s#\s*\r?$##
:%s#\s*\r*$##
:%s/^\n\{3}//
:%s/^\n\+\r/
:%s#[^>]\+>##g
:'a,'bg/fred/s/dick/joe/igc
:%s= [^ ]\+&=&&=
:%s= \f\+&=&&=
:%s= \S\+&=&&=
:s/(.*):(.*)/2 : \1/
:%s/^\(.*\) \n1$/\1/
:%s/^\{-}pdf/new.pdf/
:%s#\<[zy]?tbl-[a-z-]\+\>#\L&#gc
:%s///
:help /\{-}
:s/fred/a/g
:s/fred/\=@a/g
:%s/\f\+\.gif>\r&\r/g | v\.\.gif$/d | %s/gif/jpg/
:%s/a/but/gie|:update|:next
:%s/suck\|buck/loopy/gc
:s/_date_/\=strftime("%c")/
:%s:\(\(\w\+\s\+)\)\{2}\)str1:\1str2:
:%s:\(\w\+\)\(.*\s\+\)\(\w\+\)$:\3\2\1:
:%s/d\+\=(submatch(0)-3)/
:g/loc\|function/s/d/\=submatch(0)+6/
:%s#txtdev\zs\d#\=submatch(0)+1#g
:%s/(gg)\@<=\d\+\=\=submatch(0)+6/
:let i=10 | 'a,'bg/Abc/s/yy/\=i/ |let i=i+1
:let i=10 | 'a,'bg/Abc/s/xx\zsy\ze/\=i/ |let i=i+1
:%s/"\([^\]\+\).*\zsxx/\1/
:nmap z :%s#\<=expand(" ")>#
:vmap z :%s/\<*\>/

```

```

delete dos returns ^M
turn dos returns ^M into real returns (fixes joined lines)
delete end of line blanks
same as above
clean both trailing spaces AND dos returns
same thing deleting empty lines
delete blocks of 3 empty lines
compressing empty lines
delete html tags, leave text
VERY USEFUL
duplicate end column
same as above
usually the same
reverse fields separated by :
delete duplicate lines
delete to 1st pdf only
lowercase with optional leading characters
delete possibly multi-line comments
help non-greedy
sub "fred" with contents of register "a"
better alternative as register not displayed
multiple commands on one line
then use @: to repeat
ORing (must break pipe)
insert datestring
working with columns sub any str1 in col3
swapping first and last column (4 columns)
decrement numbers by 3
increment numbers by 6 on certain lines only
better version of above
increment only numbers gg\d\d by 6 (another way)
convert yy to 10,11,12 etc
convert xxxy to xx11,xx12,xx13 (more precise)
find replacement text, use \zs to simplify substitute
pull word under cursor into LHS of a substitute
pull visually highlighted text into LHS of a substitute

```

### 1.2.1 Filter all form elements into paste register

```

:redir @*|sil exec 'g#\<(\input\select\|textarea\|/\=form\)\>#p'|redir END
:nmap ,z :redir @*sil exec 'g@\<(\input\select\textarea\|/\=form\)\>@p'|redir END

```

### 1.2.2 Substitute within substitution

```

:%s,\(all/.*)\@<=/,,-,g
:s#all/\zs.*#\=substitute(submatch(0), '/', '-','g')#
:s#all/#&^M#s#/#-#g|-j!
:%s/.*\/= 'cp 'submatch(0).' all/'.substitute(submatch(0),'/', '-','g')/

```

```

replace all / with - AFTER "all/"
same thing
sub by splitting line, re-joining
sub inside sub

```

## 1.2.3 Substituting a visual area

<pre>:'&lt;,'&gt;s/Emacs/Vim/g gv</pre>	<pre>  remember you DONT type the '&lt;.&gt;'   re-select the previous visual area (ULTRA)</pre>
-----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 1.3 Global command display

<pre>:g/gladiolli/# :g/fred.*joe.*dick/ :g/\&lt;fred\&gt;/ :g/^\s*\$ /d :g!/^dd/d :v/^dd/d :g/fred/,/joe/d :g/——/,-10,.d :g/{/ ,/}/- s/\n\+/\r/g :v\S/d :v./././-j :g/^\$/./-j :g/&lt;input\ &lt;form/p :g/^/put_ :g/^/m0 :'a,'b/^/m'b :g/^/t. :g/fred/t\$ :g/stage/t'a :g/\(^I[^\I]*\)\{80}/d :'a,'bg/somestr/co/otherstr/ :'a,'bg/str1/s/str1/&amp;&amp;&amp;/ mo/str2/ :%norm jdd :.,\$g/^d/exe "norm! \" :'a,'bg/^d\+ /norm! ^A :g/fred/y A :g/fred/y A   :let @*=@a :let @a=" g/Barratt/y A  :let @*=@a :'a,'b g/^Error/ . w &gt;&gt; errors.txt :g/./yank put -1s/'/' /g s/.*/Print '&amp;'/ :g/^MARK\$/r tmp.ex   -d :g//z#.5 :g//z#.5 echo "=====" :g/ /norm 2f r* :nmap :redir @a:g//:redir END:new:put! a</pre>	<pre>display with line numbers (YOU WANT THIS!) display all lines fred,joe &amp; dick display all lines fred but not freddy delete all blank lines delete lines not containing string delete lines not containing string not line based (very powerfull) delete string &amp; 10 previous lines delete empty lines but only between {...} delete empty lines (both types) compress empty lines compress empty lines ORing double space file (pu = put) reverse file (m = move) reverse a section a to b duplicate every line copy lines matching fred to EOF copy lines matching stage to marker a delete all lines containing at least 80 tabs match all lines containing "somestr" between markers a &amp; b as above but also do a substitution delete every other line increment numbers increment numbers append all lines fred to register a (empty reg a first with qa.) put into paste buffer  write out to errors.txt duplicate every line in a file wrap a print " around each duplicate replace string with contents of a file, -d deletes the "mark" display with context display beautifully replace 2nd   with a star send output of previous global command to a new window</pre>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 1.4 Global combined with substitute (power editing)

:a,'bg/fred/s/joe/susan/gic	can use memory to extend matching
:g/fred/,/joe/s/fred/joe/gic	non-line based (ultra)
:/fred;/joe/-2,/sid/+3s/sally/alley/gIC	find fred before beginning search for joe

## 1.5 Changing case

guu	lowercase line
gUU	uppercase line
Vu	lowercase line
VU	uppercase line
g~~	flip case line
vEU	upper case word
vE~	flip case word
ggguG	lowercase entire file
vmap ,c :s/\<(\.)(\k*)\>/\u\1\L\2/g	titlise visually selected text (map for .vimrc)
:%s/[!?\_s\+\a\U&E/g	uppercase first letter of sentences
g<C-G>	count words in text file

## 1.6 Reformatting text

gq}	format a paragraph
gqap	format a paragraph
ggVGgq	reformat entire file
Vgq	current line
:s/.\{,69\};\s*\ .\{,69\}\s\+/\&\r/g	break lines at 70 chars, if possible after a ';'

## 1.7 Deletion without destroying buffer

"_d	what you've ALWAYS wanted
"_dw	delete word (use blackhole)

## 1.8 Essential

* # g* g#	find word under cursor () (forwards/backwards)
%	match brackets and tags {}, [], (), etc.

.	repeat last modification
@:	repeat last : command (then @@)
<C-N><C-P>	word completion in insert mode
<C-X><C-L>	line complete SUPER USEFUL
/<C-R><C-W>	pull onto search/command line
/<C-R><C-A>	pull onto search/command line
:set ignorecase	you nearly always want this
:syntax on	colour syntax in perl, HTML, PHP etc.
:h regexp	list all help topics containing regexp (TAB to step through list)
:nmap ,s :source \$VIM/_vimrc	read from vimrc
:nmap ,v :e \$VIM/_vimrc	open and edit local vimrc
:vmap sb "zdi<b><C-R>z</b><ESC>	wrap <b></b> around VISUALLY selected text
:vmap st "zdi<?= <C-R>z ?><ESC>	wrap <?= ?> around VISUALLY selected text

## 2 File Manipulation

### 2.1 Exploring

:Explore)	file explorer (note: capital E)
:Sex(plore)	file explorer in split window
:ls	list of buffers
:cd ..	move to parent directory
:args	list of files
:lcd %:p:h	change to directory of current file
:autocmd BufEnter * lcd %:p:h	change to directory of current file automatically <sup>1</sup> (put in _vimrc)
\be	buffer explorer list of buffers
\bs	buffer explorer (split window)

### 2.2 Opening files & other tricks

gf	open file name under cursor (SUPER)
:nnoresize gF :view	open file under cursor, create if necessary
ga	display hex,ascii value of char under cursor
ggVGg?	rot13 whole file
ggg?G	rot13 whole file (quicker for large file)
:8   normal VGg?	rot13 from line 8
:normal 10GVGg?	rot13 from line 8
,	increment, decrement number under cursor
=5*5	insert 25 into text (mini-calculator)
:e main_	tab completes
main_	include NAME of file in text (insert mode)

<sup>1</sup>Script required: bufexplorer.vim [http://www.vim.org/script.php?script\\_id=42](http://www.vim.org/script.php?script_id=42)



### 2.3 Multiple files management

:bn	goto next buffer
:bp	goto previous buffer
:wn	save file and move to next (super)
:wp	save file and move to previous
:bd	remove file from buffer list (super)
:bun	buffer unload (remove window but not from list)
:badd file.c	file from buffer list
:b 3	go to buffer 3
:b main	go to buffer with main in name eg main.c (ultra)
:sav php.html	save current file as php.html and “move” to php.html
:sav! %<.bak	save current file to alternative extension (old way)
:sav! %:r.cfm	save current file to alternative extension
:sav %:s/fred/joe/	do a substitute on file name
:sav %:s/fred/joe/:r.bak2	do a substitute on file name & ext.
!mv % %:r.bak	rename current file (DOS use rename or del)
:e!	return to unmodified file
:w c:/aaa/%	save file elsewhere
:e #	edit alternative file (also cntrl-^)
:rew	return to beginning of edited files list (:args)
:brew	buffer rewind
:sp fred.txt	open fred.txt into a split
:sball;sb	split all buffers (super)
:scrollbind	in each split window
:map <F5> :ls<CR>:e #	pressing F5 lists all buffers, just type number
:set hidden	allows to change buffer w/o saving current buffer

### 2.4 File-name manipulation

:h filename-modifiers	help
:w %	write to current file name
:w %:r.cfm	change file extension to .cfm
!echo %:p	full path & file name
!echo %:p:h	full path only
<C-R>%	insert filename (insert mode)
“%p	insert filename (normal mode)
/<C-R>%	search for file name in text

### 2.5 Command over multiple files

:argdo %s/foo/bar/e | operate on all files in :args

:bufdo %s/foo/bar/e	
:windo %s/foo/bar/e	
:argdo exe '%!sort' w!	include an external command

## 2.6 Sessions (set of files)

gvim file1.c file2.c lib/lib.h lib/lib2.h	load files for “session”
:mksession	create a session file (default session.vim)
gvim -S Session.vim	reload all files

## 2.7 Modelines

vim:noai:ts=2:sw=4:readonly:	makes readonly
vim:ft=html:	says use HTML syntax highlighting
:h modeline	help with modelines

### 2.7.1 Creating your own GUI Toolbar entry

```
amenu Modeline.Insert\ at\ VIMt\ modeline <Esc><Esc>ggOvim:ff=unix ts=4 ss=4
<CR>vim60:fdm=marker<Esc>gg
```

(All on one line!)

## 2.8 Markers & moving about

.	jump to last modification line (SUPER)
‘.	jump to exact spot in last modification line
g;	cycle through recent changes (oldest first) <sup>2</sup>
g,	reverse direction <sup>3</sup>
:changes	show entire list of changes
:h changelist	help for above
<C-O>	retrace your movements in file (starting from most recent)
<C-I>	retrace your movements in file (reverse direction)
:ju(mps)	list of your movements
:help jump-motions	explains jump motions
:history	list of all your commands
:his c	commandline history
:his s	search history

---

<sup>2</sup>(new in vim 6.3)

<sup>3</sup>(new in vim 6.3)

q/	search history window (puts you in full edit mode)
q:	commandline history window (puts you in full edit mode)
:	history Window

## 2.9 Editing/moving within insert mode

<C-U>	delete all entered
<C-W>	delete last word
<HOME><END>	beginning/end of line
<C-LEFTARROW><C-RIGHTARROW>	jump one word backwards/forwards
<C-X><C-E>,<C-X><C-Y>	scroll while staying put in insert

## 2.10 Abbreviations & maps

:map <f7> :’a,’bw! c:/aaa/x	
:map <f8> :r c:/aaa/x	
:map <f11> :.w! c:/aaa/xr<CR>	
:map <f12> :r c:/aaa/xr<CR>	
:ab php	list of abbreviations beginning php
:map ,	list of maps beginning ,
set wak=no	allow use of F10 for win32 mapping (:h winaltkeys)
<CR>	enter
<ESC>	escape
<BACKSPACE>	backspace
<LEADER>	backslash
<BAR>	
<SILENT>	execute quietly
iab phpdb exit(”<hr>Debug <C-R>a ”);	yank all variables into register a

### 2.10.1 Display RGB colour under the cursor eg #445588

```
:nmap <leader>c :hi Normal guibg=#<c-r>=expand(”<cword>”)<cr><cr>
```

## 3 Registers

### 3.1 List your registers

:reg	display contents of all registers
:reg a	display content of individual registers
“1p....	retrieve numeric registers one by one

<pre> :let @y='yy@' qqq :let @a=@_ :let @a="" :let @*=@a map &lt;F11&gt; "qyy:let @q=@q."zzz" </pre>	<pre> pre-loading registers (put in .vimrc) empty register "q" clear register a clear register a copy register a to paste buffer </pre>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### 3.2 Appending to registers

Yank 5 lines into "a" then add a further 5

1. "a5yy
2. 10j
3. "A5yy

### 3.3 Using a register as a map (preload registers in .vimrc)

```

:let @m=":'a,'bs/"
:let @s=":%!sort -u"

```

### 3.4 Redirection & paste register

<pre> :redir @* :redir END :redir &gt;&gt; out.txt "*yy "*p :'a,'by* :%y* :.y* :nmap p :let @* = substitute(@*, '[^[:print:]]', '', 'g') *p </pre>	<pre> redirect commands to paste buffer end redirect redirect to a file yank to paste insert from paste buffer yank range into paste yank whole buffer into paste yank current line to paster filter non-printable characters </pre>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

#### 3.4.1 Copy full path name

```

unix: nnoemap <F2> :let @*=expand("%:p")
win32: nnoemap <F2> :let @*=substitute(expand("%:p"), "/", "\\ ", "g")

```

### 3.5 Useful tricks

“ayy@a	execute “vim command” in a text file
yy@”	same thing using unnamed register
u@.	execute command JUST typed in
:norm qqy\$jq	paste “normal commands” without entering insert mode

## 4 Advanced

### 4.1 Command line tricks

cat xx   gvim - -c “v/^d\d\ ^ [3-9]/d “	filter a stream
ls   gvim -	edit a stream!
gvim ftp://www.somedomain.com/index.html	uses netrw.vim
gvim -h	help
gvim -o file1 file2	open into a split
gvim -c “/main” joe.c	open joe.c & jump to “main”
gvim -c “%s/ABC/DEF/ge   update” file1.c	execute multiple command on a single file
gvim -c “argdo %s/ABC/DEF/ge   update” *.c	execute multiple command on a group of files
gvim -c “argdo /begin/+1,/end/-1g/^/d   update” *.c	remove blocks of text from a series of files
gvim -s “convert.vim” file.c	automate editing of a file (ex commands in convert.vim)
gvim -u NONE -U NONE -N	load vim without .vimrc and plugins (clean vim)
gvim -c ‘normal ggdG’*p’ c:/aaa/xp	access paste buffer contents (put in a script/batch file)
gvim -c ‘s/^/\=@*/ hardcopy! q!’	print paste contents to default printer
gvim -d file1 file2	vimdiff (compare differences)
dp	“put” difference under cursor to other file
do	“get” difference under cursor from other file
:grep somestring *.php	internal grep creates a list of all matching files
:h grep	use :cn(ext) :cp(rev) to navigate list

### 4.2 External programs

:r!ls.exe	reads in output of ls
!!date	same thing (but replaces/filters current line)
:%!sort -u	sort unique content
:’a,’b!sort -u	as above
!1} sort -u	sorts paragraph (note normal mode!!)
map <F9> :w!:c:/php/php.exe %	run file through php
map <F2> :w!:perl -c %	run file through perl
:runtime! syntax/2html.vim	convert txt to html

### 4.3 Recording

qq	record to q
q	end recording
@q	to execute
@@	to repeat
5@@	to repeat 5 times
“q	display contents of register q (normal mode)
<ctrl-R>q	display contents of register q (insert mode)
”qdd	put changed contents back into q
@q	execute recording/register q
nnoremap ] @l:wbd	combining a recording with a map (to end up in command mode)

### 4.3.1 Operating a Recording on a Visual BLOCK

1. define recording/register

```
qq:s/ to/ from/g^Mq
```

2. Define Visual BLOCK

```
V}
```

3. hit : and the following appears

```
:’<,’>
```

4. Complete as follows

```
:’<,’>norm @q
```

## 4.4 Quick jumping between splits

```
map <C-J> <C-W>j<C-W>_
```

```
map <C-K> <C-W>k<C-W>_
```

## 4.5 Visual mode basics

v	enter visual mode
V	visual mode whole line
<C-V>	enter VISUAL BLOCK mode
gv	reselect last visual area (ultra)
o	navigate visual area
“*y	yank visual area into paste buffer
V%	visualise what you match
V}J	join visual block (great)
V}gJ	join visual block w/o adding spaces
0<C-V>10j2ld	delete first 2 characters of 10 successive lines

## 4.6 vimrc essentials

set incsearch	jumps to search word as you type
set wildignore=*.o,*.obj,*.bak,*.exe	tab complete now ignores these
set shiftwidth=3	for shift/tabbing
set vb t_vb=""	set silent (no beep!)
set browsedir=buffer	make 'open directory' use current directory

### 4.6.1 Launching IE

```
nmap ,f :update:silent !start c:\progra~1\intern~1\iexplore.exe file://%:p
nmap ,i :update: !start c:\progra~1\intern~1\iexplore.exe
```

### 4.6.2 Ftping from vim

```
cmap ,r :Nread ftp://209.51.134.122/public.html/index.html
cmap ,w :Nwrite ftp://209.51.134.122/public.html/index.html
```

### 4.6.3 Autocmd

autocmd bufenter *.tex map <F1> :!latex %	programming keys depending on file type
autocmd bufenter *.tex map <F2> :!xdvi -hush %<.dvi&	launch xdvi with current file dvi
autocmd BufRead * silent! %s/[\r \t]\+\$//	automatically delete whitespace, trailing dos returns
autocmd BufEnter *.php :%s/[\t\r]\+\$//e	same but only for php files

## 4.7 Conventional shifting and indenting

:a,'b>>	conventional Shifting/Indenting
:vnoresize < <gv	visual shifting (builtin-repeat)
:vnoresize > >gv	visual shifting (builtin-repeat)
>i{	block shifting (magic)
>a{	
>%	
<%	

## 4.8 Pulling objects onto command/search line

<C-R><C-W>	pull word under the cursor into a command line or search
<C-R><C-A>	pull WORD under the cursor into a command line or search
<C-R>-	pull small register (also insert mode)

<C-R>[0-9a-z]		pull named registers (also insert mode)
<C-R>%		pull file name (also #) (also insert mode)
<C-R>=somevar		pull contents of a variable (eg :let sray="ray[0-9]")

## 4.9 Capturing output of current script

:new   r!perl #		opens new buffer,read other buffer
:new! x.out   r!perl #		same with named file
:new+read!ls		
:new +put q %!sort		create a new buffer, paste a register "q" into it, then sort new buffer

## 4.10 Inserting DOS carriage returns

:%s/\$/\&/g		that's what you type
:%s/\$/\&/g		for Win32
:%s/\$/\^M&/g		what you'll see where ^M is ONE character
:set list		display "invisible characters"

## 4.11 Perform an action on a particular file or file type

```
autocmd VimEnter c:/intranet/note011.txt normal! ggVGg?
autocmd FileType *.pl exec('set fileformats=unix')
```

```
" Retrieving last command line command for copy & pasting into text
i:
" Retrieving last Search Command for copy & pasting into text
i/
```

## 4.12 Inserting line number

```
:g/^/exec "s/^/" .strpart(line(".")) " ", 0, 4)
:%s/^/\=strpart(line(".")) " ", 0, 5)
:%s/^/\=line('.') . ' '
```

## 4.13 Numbering lines

:set number		show line numbers
:map <F12> :set number!<CR>		map to toggle line numbers
:%s/^/\=strpart(line('.') " ",0,&ts)		



<pre>:'a,'b!perl -pne 'BEGIN{\$a=223} substr(\$_,2,0)=\$a++' qqmnYP'n^Aq :.,\$g/^\d/exe "normal! \" o23qqYpq40@q</pre>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">number lines starting from arbitrary number</td> <td>in recording q repeat with @q</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding-right: 5px;">increment existing numbers to end of file</td> <td>generate a list of numbers 23-64</td> </tr> </table>	number lines starting from arbitrary number	in recording q repeat with @q	increment existing numbers to end of file	generate a list of numbers 23-64
number lines starting from arbitrary number	in recording q repeat with @q				
increment existing numbers to end of file	generate a list of numbers 23-64				

## 4.14 Advanced incrementing

```
let g:I=0
function! INC(increment)
  let g:I =g:I + a:increment
  return g:I
end function
```

### 4.14.1 Create list starting from 223 incrementing by 5 between markers a,b

```
:let I=223
:'a,'bs/^\=INC(5)/
```

### 4.14.2 Create a map for INC

```
cab viminc :let I=223 \| 'a,'bs/$/\=INC(5)/
```

## 4.15 Digraphs (non alpha-numeric)

:digraphs	display table
:h dig	help
i<C-K>e'	enters
i<C-V>233	enters (Unix)
i<C-Q>233	enters (Win32)
ga	View hex value of any character
:::yl/<C-R>"	Pull a non-ascii character onto search bar

## 4.16 Complex vim

:%s/\<\(on\ off\)\>/\=strpart("offon", 3 * ("off" == submatch(0)), 3)/g	swap two words
:vnoremap <C-X> <Esc>'. "gvP"P	swap two words

## 4.17 Syntax highlighting

:set syntax=perl	force Syntax coloring for a file that has no extension .pl
:set syntax off	remove syntax coloring (useful for all sorts of reasons)

#### 4.21 Renaming files

4 ADVANCED

<code>:colorscheme blue</code>		change coloring scheme (any file in <code>~vim/vim??/colors</code> )
<code>vim:ft=html:</code>		force HTML Syntax highlighting by using a modeline
<code>:syn match DoubleSpace “ “</code>		example of setting your own highlighting
<code>:hi def DoubleSpace guibg=#e0e0e0</code>		sets the editor background

#### 4.18 Preventions and security

<code>:set noma (non modifiable)</code>		prevents modifications
<code>:set ro (Read Only)</code>		protect a file from unintentional writes
<code>:X</code>		encryption (do not forget your key!)

#### 4.19 Taglist

4

<code>:Tlist</code>		display tags (list of functions)
<code>&lt;C-]&gt;</code>		jump to function under cursor

#### 4.20 Folding

<code>zf}</code>		fold paragraph using motion
<code>v}zf</code>		fold paragraph using visual
<code>zf'a</code>		fold to mark
<code>zo</code>		open fold
<code>zc</code>		re-close fold

#### 4.21 Renaming files

Rename files without leaving vim

```
:r! ls *.c
:%s/\(.*\)\.c/mv & \1.bla
:w !sh
:q!
```

#### 4.22 Reproducing lines

---

<sup>4</sup>Script required: taglist.vim ([http://www.vim.org/scripts/script.php?script\\_id=273](http://www.vim.org/scripts/script.php?script_id=273))

imap ]	@@@hhkyWjl?@@@P/@@@3s	reproduce previous line word by word
nmap ]	i@@@hhkyWjl?@@@P/@@@3s	reproduce previous line word by word

## 4.23 Reading MS-Word documents

```

5 :autocmd BufReadPre *.doc set ro
:autocmd BufReadPre *.doc set hlsearch!
:autocmd BufReadPost *.doc %!antiword "%"
```

## 4.24 Random functions

### 4.24.1 Save word under cursor to a file

```

function! SaveWord()
  normal yiw
  exe '!echo '.@0.' $$$>$ word.txt'
endfunction
```

### 4.24.2 Delete duplicate lines

```

function! Del()
  if getline('.') == getline(line('.') - 1)
    norm dd
  endif
endfunction
```

### 4.24.3 Columnise a CSV file for display

```

:let width = 20
:let fill=' ' | while strlen(fill) < width | let fill=fill.fill | endwhile
:%s/\([^;]*\);\\=\\=strpart(submatch(1).fill, 0, width)/ge
:%s/\\s\\+$/ge
```

```

function! CSVH(x)
  execute 'match Keyword /\^{\}$\backslash$([\^{}],)*,$\backslash$}\$)\backslash$\{'.a:x.'\}$\backslash$zs[\^{}],)*/'
  execute 'normal \^{\}.'.a:x.'.f,'
endfunction
```

```

command! -nargs=1 Csv :call CSVH()
:Csv 5 : highlight fifth column
```

## 4.25 Miscallaenous commands

:scriptnames	list all plugins, _vimrcs loaded (super)
:verbose set history?	reveals value of history and where set
:function	list functions
:func SearchCompl	List particular function

---

<sup>5</sup>Program required: Antiword (<http://www.winfield.demon.nl/>)

## 4.26 Vim traps

In regular expressions you must backslash + (match 1 or more)

In regular expressions you must backslash | (or)

In regular expressions you must backslash ( (group)

In regular expressions you must backslash { (count)

/fred\+/ /\(fred\)\{2,3}/ /codes(\n\—\s)*where /\vcodes(\n \s)*where	matches fred/freddy but not free note what you have to break normal regexp very magic
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## 4.27 Help

:h quickref	vim quick reference sheet (ultra)
:h tips	vim's own tips help
:h visual<C-D><TAB>	obtain list of all visual help topics
:h ctrl<C-D>	list help of all control keys
:helpg uganda	grep help files use :cn, :cp to find next
:h :r	help for :ex command
:h CTRL-R	normal mode
:h /\r	what's \r in a regexp (matches a <CR>)
:h \\zs	double up backslash to find \zs in help
:h i_CTRL-R	help for say <C-R> in insert mode
:h c_CTRL-R	help for say <C-R> in command mode
:h v_CTRL-V	visual mode
:h tutor	vim tutor
<C-[>, <C-T>	Move back & forth in help history
gvim -h	vim command line help
:helptags /vim/vim64/doc	rebuild all *.txt help files in /doc
:help add-local-help	

## 5 Fun

:h 42

:h holy-grail

:h!

vim -c “:‰s‰s\*‰Cyrnfr)fcbafe[Oenz(Zbbyranne%|:‰s)[[(())-)Ig|norm Vg?”

## 5.1 Contact

### 5.1.1 Author (David Rayner)

Please email any errors or further tips etc to [david\(at\)rayninfo.co.uk](mailto:david(at)rayninfo.co.uk)  
 Updated version at <http://www.rayninfo.co.uk/vimtips.html>

### 5.1.2 Maintainer (Gavin Gilmour)

Please email any comments, suggestions including spelling, grammatical and/or formatting issues with this document to [gavin\(at\)brokentrain.net](mailto:gavin(at)brokentrain.net)  
 Updated version available at: <http://gavin.brokentrain.net/projects/vimtips/vimtips.pdf>

### 5.1.3 Source

The source of this document is available at: <http://github.com/gaving/vimtips/>.

## 5.2 Links

<a href="http://www.vim.org/">http://www.vim.org/</a>	Official site
<a href="http://chronos.cs.msu.su/vim/newsgroup.html">http://chronos.cs.msu.su/vim/newsgroup.html</a>	Newsgroup and Usenet
<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vim">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vim</a>	Specific newsgroup
<a href="http://u.webring.com/hub?ring=vim">http://u.webring.com/hub?ring=vim</a>	VIM Webring
<a href="http://www.truth.sk/vim/vimbook-OPL.pdf">http://www.truth.sk/vim/vimbook-OPL.pdf</a>	Vim Book
<a href="http://vimdoc.sourceforge.net/">http://vimdoc.sourceforge.net/</a>	Searchable VIM Doc
<a href="http://www.faqs.org/faqs/editor-faq/vim/">http://www.faqs.org/faqs/editor-faq/vim/</a>	VIM FAQ