# Ed text editor cheat sheet

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STATUS: Work in progress.

| NOTE | The cheat sheet is for GNU version of `ed`. All values in [] are optional. `ed` fully supports Unicode. |

*Table 1. Command mode*

| Command | Description |
| --- | --- |
| **[*n*]a** | Append - append a new line after the current , or, if *n* is given, after the *nth* line, then enter input mode. Use 0 (zero) for *n* to append at the top of the buffer. |
| **[*n*]i** | Insert - insert a new line before the current or the *nth* line, if given, then enter the input mode. Use 0 as *n* to insert at the top of the buffer |
| **[*n*]c** | Change - change the current, or the *nth* line if given, then enter the input mode. The current (or specified) line gets deleted before you start typing a new one. |
| **[*start,end*]m[*dest*]** | Move lines, including, from *start* up to the *end* after the *dest* destination line. |
| **[*start,end*]t[*dest*]** | Transfer - copy lines *start* through *end* after the *dest* line. If no line numbers are given, copies the current line and pastes underneath. |
| **e [*filename*]** | Edit a file - *filename* if given, default if not. WARNING: Current buffer and all of its changes are discarded. |
| **[*start,end*]w [*filename*]** | Write the current buffer (whole or just lines between *start* and *end*) to a *filename* if given or the currently set with the `file` command. The contents of the *filename* is overwritten! Ed reports number of characters written on success. |
| **[*start, end*]W [*filename*]** | Write by appending the buffer to the file *filename*, the current contents of the *filename* are not overwritten. Ed reports number of characters written on success. |
| **[.]=** | Show number of lines in the buffer, or, if `.` (dot) is given `.=`, show the line number of the current line. |

| Command | Description |
|---|---|
| **P** | Show/hide prompt, * (asterisk) is the default. |
| **H** | Turn on/off verbose error indication mode. With this mode off, ed only outputs ? for any error without additional info. |
| **! *shell command(s)*** | Run the given *shell command(s)* displaying their output without leaving the ed. Hitting <Enter> returns to the ed buffer. The shell's output is not kept or redirected to the buffer in any way. |
| **r** | Read |
| **r !*shell command(s)*** | Run the shell command |
| **[*start,end*]p** | Print lines from *start* to *end* or current if not set. Sets current line to the last line printed. |
| **q** | Quit the ed, warns if there are unsaved changes, if repeated 2nd time, quits discarding any unsaved changes. |
| **Q** | Quit ed unconditionally, discarding any unsaved changes. |
| **u** | Undo the last change. ed has only one level of uno, entering u the second time redoes the change undone before. |
| ***n*** | Go to the line *n*. |
| **[*starting_address*]z[*lines-to-scroll*]** | Scroll default 24 lines down, if *lines-to-scroll* is not given. Optionally, start scrolling not from the current line (default), but from the line number *starting_address*. Resets current line to the last line after scrolling position. |
| **[*start,end*]n** | Print *start,end* lines prefixed by their line number, analog of **p** but prints line numbers as well. Use ,n to print the whole buffer with line numbers. |
| **[*start, end*]s/*regex*/*replacement*/[g]** | Substitute - on lines *start* to *end*, find 1st occurrence of *regex* from the left (or all the occurrences if g for Global prefix is added) and replace with the *replacement*. |

*Table 2. Input mode*

| Command | Description |
|---|---|
| **.** (dot on a line by itself) | Switch from input to the command mode. The . (dot) should be entered on a new line by itself, then <Enter>. |

| Command | Description |
| --- | --- |
| **CTRL + C** | Discard the changes done in the current input mode sequence, and return to the command mode. Only changes since entering last input mode are discarded, not the whole session. |