

GNU Emacs

Quick Reference

Starting, Stopping, and Undoing

<i>Command</i>	<i>Action</i>
emacs	Start Emacs from the shell prompt
emacs filename	Start Emacs and edit specified file
C-x C-f	Find a file
C-x C-s	Save a file
C-x s	Save all files
C-x C-c	Exit Emacs
C-g	Stop command in progress
C-x u	Undo
C-z	Suspend Emacs
C-x b	Move to another buffer
C-x k	Kill buffer
ESC `	Access menus from a text-based terminal

Moving Around

<i>Command</i>	<i>Action</i>
C-f <i>or</i> →	Forward character (right)
C-b <i>or</i> ←	Backward character (left)
C-p <i>or</i> ↑	Previous line (up)
C-n <i>or</i> ↓	Next line (down)
C-v <i>or</i> PageUp	Forward one screen
ESC v <i>or</i> PageDown	Backward one screen
ESC < <i>or</i> Home	Beginning of file
ESC > <i>or</i> End	End of file
ESC f	Forward word
ESC b	Backward word
C-a	Beginning of line
C-e	End of line

Getting Help

<i>Keys</i>	<i>Command Name</i>	<i>Question Answered</i>
C-h k	describe-key	What command does this keystroke sequence run, and what does it do?
C-h w	where-is	What is the key binding for this command?
C-h f	describe-function	What does this function do?
C-h v	describe-variable	What does this variable mean, and what is its value?
C-h m	describe-mode	Tell me about the mode the current buffer is in.
C-h b	describe-bindings	What are all the key bindings for this buffer?
C-h a	command-apropos	What commands involve this concept?
C-h t	help-with-tutorial	Run the Emacs tutorial.
C-h i	info	Start the info documentation reader.

Cutting and Pasting

<i>Command</i>	<i>Action</i>
C-d	Delete character under cursor
DEL	Delete previous character
ESC d	Delete next word
ESC DEL	Delete previous word
C-k	Delete from cursor to end of line
C-, C-SPACE, <i>or</i> left button	Mark the beginning (<i>or</i> end) of a region
C-w <i>or</i> C-middle button	Cut region
ESC w, C-Insert, <i>or</i> right button	Copy region
C-y <i>or</i> S-Insert <i>or</i> middle button	Paste
ESC y	After C-y, paste previous
INSERT	Toggle overwrite mode

Search and Replace

<i>Command</i>	<i>Action</i>
C-s	Incremental search forward
C-r	Incremental search backward
C-s C-s	Repeat last search
RETURN	Exit search
ESC %	Query-replace
SPACE <i>or</i> y	Replace
DEL <i>or</i> n	Don't replace
!	Replace all and don't ask
RETURN	Exit query-replace

Windows

<i>Command</i>	<i>Action</i>
C-x 2 <i>or</i> C-right	Divide current window horizontally
C-x o	Move to other window
C-x 0	Delete the current window
C-x 1	Delete all windows but this one
ESC C-v	Scroll other window
C-x 4 f	Find file in other window



Shortcuts

Command	Action
TAB	In minibuffer <i>or</i> shell, complete file, directory, <i>or</i> command name
C-x ESC ESC	Repeat last complex command
ESC p	In minibuffer <i>or</i> shell, display previous input
ESC n	In minibuffer <i>or</i> shell, display next input (after ESC p)
C-t	Transpose two letters
ESC t	Transpose two words
ESC u	Uppercase word
ESC l	Lowercase word
ESC c	Capitalize first letter of word
C-x r m	Set a bookmark for this file
C-x r b	Jump to a bookmark
C-x r l	List bookmarks
ESC ;	Insert a comment marker

Starting Tools

Command	Action
ESC x ispell-buffer	Run ispell on this buffer
ESC x shell	Start shell buffer
C-x d	Start Dired, the directory editor
C-x m	Write mail message
C-c C-c	Send mail message
ESC x rmail	Read mail
h	Display RMAIL summary list
C-x C-b	Display buffer list
ESC x gnus	Start Gnus newsreader
ESC x w3	Start W3 browser (if installed)
ESC x telnet	Open telnet connection
C-x C-f /username@systemname:/path/file	Find file on remote system using FTP (path and file are optional)

Moving Around Gnus, RMAIL, Buffer List, Dired, & W3

Command	Action
n	Move to next item
p	Move to previous item
SPACE	Scroll text buffer <i>or</i> move to next item
d	Mark item for deletion
x	Delete marked items
RETURN	Select item
q	Exit

Regular Expression Search and Composition

Command	Action
ESC C-s RETURN	Search for a regular expression forward
^	Matches the beginning of a line
\$	Matches the end of a line
.	Matches any single character
.*	Matches any group of zero <i>or</i> more characters
\<	Matches the beginning of a word
\>	Matches the end of a word
[]	Match any character specified within the brackets; for example, [a-z] matches any alphabetic character



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