

GNU Emacs Reference Card

(for version 18)

Starting and Leaving Emacs

If you're using X windows, always start Emacs in the background by typing `emacs&`.

exit Emacs permanently `C-x C-c`

Files

read a file into Emacs `C-x C-f`
save a file back to disk `C-x C-s`
insert contents of another file into this buffer `C-x i`
write buffer to a different file name `C-x C-w`

Getting Help

Type `C-h ?` for help about help.

apropos: show commands matching a string `C-h a`
show the function a key runs `C-h c`
describe a function `C-h f`
get mode-specific information `C-h m`

Error Recovery

abort partially typed or executing command `C-g`
recover a file lost by a system crash `M-x recover-file`
undo an unwanted change `C-x u` or `C-/`
restore a buffer to its original contents `M-x revert-buffer`
redraw garbagged screen `C-l`

Incremental Search

search forward `C-s`
search backward `C-r`
regular expression search `C-M-s`

Use `C-s` or `C-r` again to repeat the search in either direction.
exit incremental search `ESC`
delete character from search string `DEL`
abort current search `C-g`
If Emacs is still searching, `C-g` will cancel the part of the search not done, otherwise it aborts the entire search.

Motion

Cursor motion:

entity to move over
character `C-b`
word `M-b`
line `C-p`
go to line beginning (or end) `C-a`
sentence `M-a`
paragraph `M-l`
page `C-x [`
go to buffer beginning (or end) `M-<`

Screen motion:
scroll to next screen `C-v`
scroll to previous screen `M-v`

Killing and Deleting

entity to kill
character (delete, not kill) `DEL`
word `M-DEL`
line (to end of) `M-0 C-k`
sentence `C-x DEL`
kill region `C-w`
kill to next occurrence of *char* `M-z char`
yank back last thing killed `C-y`
replace last yank with previous kill `M-y`

Marking

set mark here `C-@` or `C-SPC`
exchange point and mark `C-x C-x`
mark paragraph `C-M-h`
mark page `C-x C-p`
mark entire buffer `C-x h`

Query Replace

interactively replace a text string using regular expressions `M-x query-replace-regex`
Valid responses in query-replace mode include
replace this one, go on to next `SPC`
skip to next without replacing `DEL`
replace all remaining matches `!`
exit query-replace `ESC`

Multiple Windows

delete all other windows `C-x 1`
delete this window `C-x 0`
split window in 2 vertically `C-x 2`
split window in 2 horizontally `C-x 3`
scroll other window `C-M-v`
switch cursor to another window `C-x o`
shrink window shorter `M-x shrink-window`
grow window taller `C-x ^`
shrink window narrower `C-x {`
grow window wider `C-x }`

Auto Fill

fill paragraph `M-q`
fill region `M-g`
set fill column `C-x f`

Minibuffer and Completion

The following keys are defined in the minibuffer.
complete as much as possible
complete up to one word, or show list
abort command `TAB`
`SPC`
`C-g`

Buffers

select another buffer `C-x b`
list all buffers `C-x C-b`
kill a buffer `C-x k`

Spelling Check

check spelling of current word `M-$`
check spelling of all words in region `M-x spell-region`
check spelling of entire buffer `M-x spell-buffer`

Info

enter the Info documentation reader `C-h i`
run Info tutorial `h`
list Info commands `?`
quit Info `q`
search nodes for regex `s`

Copyright © 1987 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
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for GNU Emacs version 18 on Unix systems
Modified by Armando Fox, Intel MDD6 and UC Berkeley
for "Intro to GNU Emacs" Training Course

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