VSCode Keyboard Shortcuts

By Web Dev Simplified https://courses.webdevsimplified.com

Editor Tab Management

Shortcut	Description
Ctrl Shift T	Reopen last closed tab
Ctrl Tab	Navigate between open tabs Defaults to the most recently used tab Only shows tabs in the currently active split pane
Ctrl W	Close current tab
Ctrl K + Ctrl W	Close all tabs
Ctrl Alt Right/Left	Move current tab to the split pane to the left/right If moving to the right and there is no pane to the right a new one will be created
Ctrl 1/2/3/...	Focus on the split pane corresponding with the number pressed

VSCode Panel Management

Shortcut	Description
Ctrl `	Expand/Collapse terminal panel Opens a new terminal if none are open
Ctrl Shift `	Open a new terminal
Ctrl B	Expand/Collapse primary sidebar
Ctrl P	Search for and open file
Ctrl Shift P	Open command pallete This is a great way to run niche commands that don't have a shortcut
Ctrl Shift E	Show file explorer sidebar
Ctrl Shift M	Expand/Collapse problems panel
Ctrl Shift U	Expand/Collapse output panel
Alt Left/Right	Go back/forward This simulates hitting the back/forward buttons in the top bar
Ctrl ,	Open settings
Ctrl K + Ctrl S	Show all keyboard shortcuts This is a great way to see all available shortcuts and add/edit your own

Basic Text Editing

Shortcut	Description
Ctrl C	Copy selected text Copy current line if no text is selected
Ctrl X	Cut selected text Cut current line if no text is selected I often use this to delete lines of text
Ctrl V	Paste copied text/line
Ctrl A	Select all text in current file
Ctrl /	Comment out selected lines of text Comment out current line if no text selected
Ctrl Z	Undo latest change
Ctrl Shift Z Ctrl Y	Redo latest undo action

Advanced Text Editing

Shortcut	Description
Ctrl Space	Trigger autocomplete suggestions
Tab/Enter	Accept autocomplete suggestion
Ctrl D	Add to selection the next text that matches the current selection Select word cursor is inside if no text selected Great for selecting a few instances of a variable to rename or change it
Ctrl]	Indent current line
Shift Tab Ctrl [	Outdent current line
Ctrl Shift K	Deleted current line
Ctrl Shift]/[	Uncollapse/Collapse current region This is often called unfolding/folding
Ctrl Enter	Add newline below current line and place cursor on new line If you have GitHub Copilot enabled this may be overridden by Copilot
Ctrl Shift Enter	Add newline above current line and place cursor on new line
Ctrl .	Show problem quick fixes if cursor is over an editor warning/error This is great for fixing simple errors/warnings without needing your mouse
Alt Up/Down	Move line up/down
Shift Alt A	Comment out only selected text This is utilizes a block comment to only comment the selected text and not the entire line

Multi-Cursor/Selection Manipulation

Shortcut	Description
Ctrl Left/Right	Move cursor to the start/end of the current word
Ctrl Shift Left/Right	Move cursor to the start/end of the current word and select text moved over
Shift Left/Right	Move cursor one character to the left/left and select text moved over
Alt Click	Add cursor
Ctrl U	Undo last cursor action
Ctrl Alt Up/Down	Add cursor above/below current selection
Shift Alt Left/Right	Shrink/Expand current selection This is great for selecting all the content inside brackets/objects/arrays/functions
Shift Alt Click/Drag Mouse Ctrl Shift Alt Arrow Keys	Box selection This is great for selecting a box of content across many different rows and columns of text

Debugging

Shortcut	Description
F9	Add/Remove breakpoint on current line
Shift F9	Add/Remove inline breakpoint at cursor
F5	Start debugger/Continue Jumps to the next breakpoint if the debugger is already running
Shift F5	Stop debugger
Ctrl Shift F5	Restart debugger
F6	Pause debugger
F11	Step into
Shift F11	Step out
F10	Step over

Symbol Search/Replace

Shortcut	Description
F2	Rename symbol This is a great way to rename all instances of a variable across your entire project
Ctrl Shift O	Search for and go to symbol in current file
Ctrl T	Search for and go to symbol across entire project
F12 Ctrl Click	Go to definition of symbol
Alt F12	Peek definition of symbol
Shift F12	Go to reference to symbol This is a great way to find all places a function/variable is used If there are more than one reference it will open in a peek window
Shift Alt F12	Find all references Shows all references in the primary sidebar for easier viewing

Text Find/Replace

Shortcut	Description
Ctrl F Ctrl H	Local find/replace Using the “F” shortcut opens the find window while “H” opens the replace window
Ctrl Shift F Ctrl Shift H	Global find/replace Using the “F” shortcut opens the find window while “H” opens the replace window