

Reference Sheet for Emacs

Why?

I have so many things installed, I'm forgetting some of the stuff that I installed to be more productive! Whence this "personal" cheat sheet. —I'm not trying to be comprehensive; see the existing cheatsheets for [Emacs](#) and [Org](#).

C-h h Learn how to say 'hello'
C-h t Read the Emacs tutorial
C-h i m emacs Read the Emacs manual

In nearly every Emacs application, press
?, h Obtain help; see listing of possible commands.
q Quit current application, closing buffer.

Getting Help

C-h o Describe symbol at point; best one.
C-h k,f,m Describe key press, function name, or mode
C-h a Apropos: Show commands matching a string
C-h e Open ***Messages*** buffer in another window
C-h i Enter **Info** documentation reader

Windows

C-x 0,1 Delete this, other windows
C-x 2,3 Split window above, to the side
C-x o Switch cursor to other window
C-x ^ Increase window height
C-x {,} Shrink, widen window

Using **C-x 5 ...** in place of **C-x ...** operates on the 'frame' level —i.e., other Emacs GUI instances. **C-x 4 ?** is for acting on the other window, where **? = f, d, b** for finding file, directory, buffer.

"s-<arrow>" Jump to window via arrow key
"M-<tab>" Flip to next buffer
"M-S-<tab>" Flip to previous buffer

Workspace Manager

All commands are prefixed by **C-x x**; main commands:

s Select a space to go to or create it.
n,+, p,+ Next, previous space
c Query a perspective to kill.
r Rename a perspective.
A Add buffer to current perspective & remove it from all others.

Undo tree

- ◇ **C-x u** Visualise undo tree.
 - **t, d** toggle timestamps and diff display.
 - **M-{,}** Go to previous, next branching point.
 - **q** Exit at currently selected state.
- ◇ **C-x r u** Save current buffer state.
- ◇ **C-x r U** Restore saved buffer state.

Save & restore is useful for experimenting with a function definition, for example.

Killing

C,M-d	forward kill character, word
C,M-del	backward kill word prefix
C-k, 'M-k'	forward, backward kill line
C-x del	backward kill sentence
C,M-w	Kill, copy region
C-x r k	Kill region
M-y	Show kill ring, with "helm"

Marking

C-SPC	Set mark
C-x C-x	Exchange point & mark
M-h	Mark paragraph
C-x h	Mark buffer
C-u M-@	Mark words away

Formatting

By default **C-t** is transpose characters; I'm using it quickly open a terminal.

C-M-\	Indent region, mode dependent
C-x tab	Indent region <i>arg</i> columns or ←,→
M-;	Toggle comment region
C-M-o	Move rest of line vertically down
M-u, l	Uppcase, downcase rest of word
C-x C-u, l	Uppcase, downcase region
M-t	Transpose current word with next
C-x C-t	Transpose current line with above

Dictionary & Thesaurus

M-\$ Spellcheck word
"M-#" Synonym for word
"M-!" Define word

Textual Navigation

C-b, f	←, → character
M-b, f	←, → word
C-p, n	↑,↓ line
M-g g	go to a line
C-a, e	start, end line
M-a, e	start, end sentence
M-{, }	start, end paragraph
M-<, >	start, end buffer
C-v	down page
M-v	up page
C-l	centre page
M-r	relocate point

Org-mode: All commands are prefixed by **C-c**.

n,p next, previous heading
f,b n,p same level heading
C-u backward to higher heading
C-j ↑↓ jump to another heading
"C-h" Fold current tree

Using the "super key" to navigate between org blocks.

"s-p,n" Previous, next src block
"s-e" Toggled editing src block

Mail

C-x m Compose
C-c C-s Send
M-x gnus Read mail

Then,

RET Open article
B m Move an article
! Mark as read, but it keep around
d Mark as read; archive it.
R Reply in-place.
r Reply in clean slate.

Delete an article by moving it to 'Trash'.

Completion

M-/ Expand previous word dynamically
M-<digit> Select one of the 10 suggestions

Narrowing

This allows us to “zoom in” or “focus” on a particular region; the rest of the buffer is ‘hidden’. All commands begin with C-x n.

n Narrow to region
w Widen to full view
e Narrow to org element
s Org narrow current tree

Searching

C-s Search current buffer
“C-M-s” Search *all* buffers
“C-S-s” Back to where search began

C-c C-e during a search to make live edits.

Org Visibility

tab Cycle visibility
S-tab Cycle *global* visibility
C-c C-x C-v Toggle inline image display
C-c C-x C-l Toggle, preview, L^AT_EX for tree

Structure Editing

<return> Newline with indentation
M-<return> Newline with new org item
M-S-<return> Ditto, but with a TODO marker
C-M-<return> Newline, cursor at start
C-<return> New heading *after* current content
C-S-<return> Ditto, but with a TODO marker
C-c -, * Demote, promote headings to items
M-↑, ↓ Promote, demote heading
C-c C-t Set state of tree
C-c , A, B, C Set priority A, B, or C for tree
C-c , Spc Remove priority from tree
M-↑, ↓ Move *any* org element up or down
M-S-↑, ↓ Move a line up or down
C-c c Capture new item
C-c C-x C-a Archive tree

Babel

C-c C-c Execute code block
C-c C-v j Insert header argument
C-c C-v I View, possibly global, header info
C-c C-v g Go to named block
C-c C-v n, p Go to next, previous block
C-c C-v d Demarcate, split up, code block
C-c C-v t Tangle all blocks in buffer

Misc

M-x list-input-methods show all input methods

C-c C-x p, e Set property, effort of tree
C-c C-x i Capture column view in dynamic block
C-+ Increase text size
C-- Decrease text size
“C-x d” Toggle Neotree file browser
“C-c C-m” Re-compile; execute local **compile** command
“<f5>”, s-r Reload buffer from disk
“C-” Swap 2 horizontal windows to vertical
“C-t” Quickly pop-up a terminal
C-c C-o Open link at point

Org Speed Keys

With cursor at the beginning of an org headline:

Toggle COMMENT-ing
t Select state
s Toggle narrowing
I, O, E Clock in, out; add effort
p, n Previous, next heading
f, b p, n for same-level
u Upward to parent
c Cycle visibility
w Refile, relocate
~ Sort children trees
D, U Move heading down, up
L, R Promote, demote
1, 2, 3 Select priority
? See possible keys

Timestamps

C-c . Prompt for date & insert timestamp
C-c C-d Insert deadline for tree
C-c C-s Schedule a tree
S-↑, ↓, +, - Alter timestamp by a day →←-, year ↓↑
C-c C-x C-t Globally toggle date display

Clocking Time

C-c C-x C-i, o Start, stop clock on tree
C-c C-x C-r Insert, update, clock report
C-c C-x C-e Insert effort for current clock

Agenda

C-c c Capture an idea quickly
C-c a Open agenda to see tasks
C-c j Discuss what’s accomplished
C-c C-z Add note to current tree
C-c C-s Schedule a task
C-c C-a Archive a task

C-c a a See agenda for the week
“C-c a c” See completed tasks
“C-c a u” See unscheduled tasks

C-c a t Compile global todo list
C-c C-x b Open agenda task in dedicated indirect buffer
F Toggle follow mode: See details as you navigate
v Change agenda view, e.g., to day or month
f / b Forward, backward a view, e.g., day or month
R See report of total clocked time
. / j Go to today, or prompt for a date
e, t, a Remotely set effort, state, or archive
I, O, X Start, stop, cancel clock on current item
C-c C-x C-r See clocked times report

Magit

C-x g :: See status in another buffer.

s Add, stage changes
u Unstage a change
k Delete file, changes, locally
i Ignore file or pattern
c Commit a change
x Undo last commit
l Show log
P Push
F Pull
: Execute raw git command