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 C-h	Help for the help command
C-h h	Learn how to say 'hello'
C-h t	Read the Emacs tutorial
C-h m	Help for current mode
C-h b	Describe all key bindings
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 cursour 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 *arg* columns or ←,→
M-;	Toggle comment region
C-M-o	Move rest of line vertically down
M-u,l	Upcase, downcase rest of word
C-x C-u,l	Upcase, downcase region
C-x r t	Prepend string to marked lines
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
"M-~"	Grammar check region

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, LaTeX 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