

Emacs survival guide

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1 Emacs Survival Guide

Notation:

C means `Control`, S means `SHIFT`, M means `Alt` (Meta)

For example, C-x means hold down the `Control` key while typing x.

2 Boon

2.1 Command-mode

| command | action |
|-------------------|--|
| v | Switch to Insert-mode |
| j | move by word to the left |
| ; | move by word to the right |
| k | move by character backward |
| l | move by character forward |
| i | move up by line |
| o | move down by line |
| u | start of line |
| p | end of line |
| K | move backward by sentence |
| L | move forward by sentence |
| I | move backward by paragraph |
| O | move forward by paragraph |
| d l | delete character to the right |
| d k | delete character to the left |
| d j | delete word to the right |
| d ; | delete word to the left |
| d SPACE | delete line |
| d region | delete region |
| d <number> action | delete times action, i.e. <code>d 4 l</code> delete four character to the left |
| ` | toggle case between Capitalcase and lowercase. Works with regions |
| q <character> | insert character |
| t <character> | change character under cursor to character |
| w | show word-count, and—if tracktable present—words written towards goal |
| n | narrow to subtree |
| N | widen view (un-narrow) |
| M | toggle Doom modeline |
| s | toggle centered writing-mode where the cursor stays in the middle |

2.2 Insert-mode

| command | action |
|---------|------------------------|
| C-; | Switch to Command-mode |

3 Regular

3.1 Navigate

| normal | boon | action |
|---------------|--------|---|
| C-f / C-b | k / l | move forward/backward by character |
| M-f / M-b | j / ; | move forward/backward by word |
| C-n / C-p | o / i | move forward/backward by line |
| C-a / C-e | u / p | go to line beginning/end |
| M-a / M-e | K / L | go to sentence beginning/end |
| M-{ / M-} | I / O | go to paragraph beginning/end |
| C-x [/ C-x] | | go to page beginning/end |
| M-< / M-> | < / > | Move to document start / end |
| C-v | -none- | scroll to next screen |
| M-v | -none- | scroll to previous screen |
| C-M-p | | scroll-down-line |
| C-M-n | | scroll-up-line |
| C-l | -none- | scroll current line to center, top, bottom |
| M-r | | reposition cursor to center, top, bottom |
| M-m | | go to first non-whitespace on line, forward or backward |

3.2 Editing

3.2.1 Files

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|--|
| C-x C-f | | Find and open an existing file, or create a new file |
| C-x d | | Open directory |
| C-c r | | Open recently opened file |
| C-x C-r | | Find and open file read-only |
| C-x i | | Insert file |
| C-x C-s | | Save file |
| C-x C-w | | Save file as |
| C-x C-c | | Exit Emacs |

3.2.2 Formatting

| normal | boon | action |
|------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| C-j | | perform ENTER followed by TAB |
| C-o | | insert blank line |
| C-q C-l | | Insert page break |
| C-x C-o | | remove all blank lines except one |
| M-\ | | delete all white space around point |
| M-x canonically-space-region | | fix up spacing and casing in region |

3.2.3 Case change

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|--|
| M-u | | upcase word |
| M-l | | lowercase word |
| M-c | | capitalize word |
| M- M-l | | Convert last word to lower case. Note ‘Meta-’ is Meta-minus. |
| M- M-u | | Convert last word to all upper case. |
| M- M-c | | Convert last word to lower case with capital initial. |
| C-x C-u | | uppercase region |
| C-x C-l | | lowercase region |

3.2.4 Search and replace

| normal | boon | action |
|--------|------|--------------------|
| M-% | | Search and replace |

3.3 Frames and Windows

| normal | boon | action |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| C-x 1 | x 1 | delete other windows |
| C-x 2 | x 2 | split window, above and below |
| C-x 3 | x 3 | split window, side by side |
| C-M-v | | scroll other window |
| C-x o | x o | switch cursor to another window |
| C-x 4 b | x 4 b | select buffer in other window |
| C-x 4 C-o | x 4 C-o | display buffer in other window |
| C-x 4 f | x 4 f | find file in other window |
| C-x 4 d | x 4 d | run dired in other window |
| C-RIGHT | | grow window narrower |
| C-LEFT | | grow window wider |
| C-DOWN | | make window taller |
| C-UP | | make window smaller |
| M-x follow-mode | | toggle follow mode |
| C-x 4 0 | x 4 0 | kill current buffer and delete window |

3.4 Other

3.4.1 Transposing

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|-------|--------------------------|
| C-t | | transpose two characters |
| M-t | | transpose two words |
| C-x C-t | x C-t | transpose two lines |
| M-x ts | | transpose sentences |
| M-x tp | | transpose paragraphs |

3.4.2 Read-only mode

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| C-x C-q | x C-q | Toggle read-only mode |

3.4.3 Numeric argument

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|--|
| C-u num | num | repeat following instruction num times |

3.4.4 Abbrevs

| normal | boon | action |
|-----------|---------|---------------------------|
| C-x a g | x a g | Add global abbrev |
| C-x a l | x a l | Add local abbrev |
| C-x a i g | x a i g | Add global inverse abbrev |
| C-x a i l | x a i l | Add local inverse abbrev |

3.4.5 Spell check

| normal | boon | action |
|------------------------------|------|---|
| F12 | | spellcheck buffer |
| S-F12 | | spellcheck word |
| i | | add word to private dictionary |
| r | | change word |
| a | | skip word for this session |
| SPACE | | skip word |
| x | | end spellchecking session |
| q | | abort spell checking session |
| C-h | | show options screen for spellchecking session |
| M-x ispell-change-dictionary | | change current dictionary |

3.4.6 Tabs

| normal | boon | action |
|--------|------|---|
| C-j | | perform ENTER followed by TAB |
| M-i | | indent from the point to the next TAB-point |

3.4.7 Killing and deleting

| normal | boon | action |
|----------|------|---|
| C-w | d | kill region |
| M-w | D | copy region to kill buffer |
| C-y | y | yank back last thing killed |
| M-y | | replace last yank with previous kill, cycle kill ring |
| M-z char | | zap to char |

3.4.8 Marking

| normal | boon | action |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------|
| C-@ / C-SPACE | SPACE | set mark here |
| C-x C-x | | Exchange mark and point |
| M-@ | | mark arg words away |
| M-h | | mark paragraph |
| C-x h | x h | mark entire buffer |

3.4.9 Narrowing

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|-------|-------------------|
| C-x n b | x n b | narrow to block |
| C-x n e | x n e | narrow to element |

3.4.10 Undo / Redo

| normal | boon | action |
|-------------------|------|--|
| C-x u | | undo |
| C-g C-x u | | redo |
| C-/ | | undo |
| C-g C-/ | | redo |
| M-x revert-buffer | | revert buffer to its original contents |

3.4.11 Registers

| normal | boon | action |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| C-x r s | x r s | save region in register |
| C-x r i | x r i | insert register contents into buffer |
| C-x r SPACE | x r SPACE | save value of point in register |
| C-x r j | x r j | jump to point saved in register |
| C-x r w | x r w | save window configuration in register |
| C-x r m | x r m | set bookmark |
| C-x r b | x r b | jump to bookmark |
| C-x r l | x r l | visit bookmark list buffer |

3.4.12 Keyboard Macros

| normal | boon | action |
|--------|------|--|
| F3 | | record keyboard macro |
| F4 | | end record keyboard macro / run keyboard macro |

3.4.13 Counting words

| normal | boon | action |
|------------------------|------|-----------------------------|
| M-x count-words | | count words in region |
| M-x count-words-region | | count words in whole buffer |

3.4.14 Magit

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|---|
| C-x g | | run Magit |
| s | | stage |
| u | | unstage |
| k | | revert |
| c c | | commit |
| C-c C-c | c c | Execute commit, after having written the commit message |
| P p | | push |
| F p | | pull |
| h | | show Magit keyboard commands |
| q | | exit Magit |

3.4.15 Draftmode

| normal | boon | action |
|----------------|------|--------------------|
| M-x draft-mode | | Turn on draft-mode |

3.4.16 Yasnippet

| normal | boon | action |
|-----------|------|--------------------|
| TAB | | expand snippet |
| C-c & n | | new snippet |
| C-c & C-v | | visit snippet file |

3.4.17 Transparency

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|---------------------|
| C-c t s | | toggle transparency |

3.4.18 Zoom

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|----------------------------------|
| C-x C-+ | | Zoom in / make the text larger |
| C-x C- | | Zoom out / make the text smaller |
| C-x C-0 | | Reset zoom level |

3.4.19 Org-roam

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|--|
| C-c n f | | find node, or insert new node |
| C-c n i | | insert link to node |
| C-c n I | | insert link to node, without creating a node |
| C-c n p | | find project |
| C-c n t | | capture task |
| C-c n b | | capture inbox |
| C-c n d | | roam dailies |

3.4.20 Org-tracktable

| normal | boon | action |
|---------------|------|----------------------------|
| M-x tt-insert | | insert tracktable |
| Mx-tt-update | | write new tracktable entry |
| M-x tt-status | w | show tracktable status |

Hint: use `C-c &` to get back to where you were prior to updating the tracktable. Use tag `nowc` or `noexport` tags for the headings which content you do not want to be counted by the tracktable.

3.4.21 Deft

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|-----------|
| C-c n d | | run deft |
| C-c C-q | | quit deft |

4 Org-mode

4.1 Visibility

| normal | boon | action |
|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| TAB | | rotate current subtree between states |
| S-TAB | | rotate entire buffer between states |
| C-c C-x C-v | c TAB | toggle visibility of inline images |

4.2 Navigate

| normal | boon | action |
|-----------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| C-c C-n/p | c n/p | next/previous heading |
| C-c C-f/b | c f/b | next/previous heading, same level |
| C-c C-u | c u | backward to higher level heading |
| C-c C-j | | jump to another place in document |

4.3 Edit

| normal | boon | action |
|--------------------|------|--|
| M-RET | | insert new heading/item at current level |
| C-RET | | insert new heading after subtree |
| C-c - | | turn line into item, cycle item type |
| C-c * | | turn item/line into headline |
| M-LEFT/RIGHT | | promote/demote heading |
| M-S-LEFT/RIGHT | | promote/demote current subtree |
| M-UP/DOWN | | move subtree item up/down |
| C-c C-x c | | clone a subtree |
| C-c C-x v | | copy visible text |
| C-c C-x C-w/M-w | | kill/copy subtree |
| C-c C-x C-y or C-y | | yank subtree |

4.4 Marking

| normal | boon | action |
|--------|------|----------------------------|
| M-h | | mark the element at point. |
| C-c @ | | mark subtree |

4.5 Other

4.5.1 Narrowing

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|-----------------------|
| C-x n s | | org-narrow-to-subtree |

4.5.2 Tags

| normal | boon | action |
|-------------|------|------------------------------|
| C-c C-c | | set tags for heading |
| C-c C-q | | set tags for current heading |
| C-u C-c C-q | | realign tags in all headings |

4.5.3 Links

| normal | boon | action |
|-------------|------|--------------------|
| C-c C-o | | open link at point |
| C-u C-c C-l | | add link to a file |

4.5.4 Capturing / Refiling

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|-----------------|
| C-c c | | Run Org-capture |
| C-c C-w | | Run Org-refile |

4.5.5 Export

| normal | boon | action |
|---------|------|----------------------------|
| C-c C-e | | run org-mode export dialog |

4.5.6 Timer

| normal | boon | action |
|-----------|------|------------------------|
| C-c C-x t | | set timer |
| C-c C-x p | | pause or restart timer |
| C-c C-x a | | activate timer |
| C-c C-x e | | end timer |