



Introduction to Emacs

Basic Emacs Commands

Now we are going to start teaching you Emacs. We strongly encourage all programmers to use either Emacs or Vim. If you are a Vim user, you are welcome to use Vim, but we won't be able to help you with it.

The upcoming videos are going to get you started on Emacs. We'll take a "for programming in Python" centered approach (the first command we will teach you is "Execute this Python code"). We know that we have not taught you Python yet, and we won't expect you to write any code of your own, nor understand the code we are using yet. We just need to get you able to edit code before we can delve into having you write your own.

When we do various commands in the video, we'll put a text box describing the command and the key sequence to do it. Emacs has a particular notation for commands that we will explain here:

C-x means control and x.

C-x C-f means (control and x) then (control and f). You do not need to (and should not try to) hold both x and f at a time. Many novices expect that they need to press all three keys at once (control, x, and f). However, emacs commands can be multiple key strokes. This command is two: (control x) then (control f).

C-x f means (control and x) then (just f [without control]). Notice the difference between this and the prior command. Here the f does not have a C- in front of it, so it is done without the control key.

M-x means (meta and x). Meta can either be ESC or Alt depending on your keyboard (some support both). It is 99% likely that ESC will work, so we are just going to describe it as that. If you use ESC for meta, you do not need to hold it at the same time as the next key e.g., (ESC) (x). If you ALT for meta, you do need to hold them at the same time (Alt + x).

We'll go through some examples in the next video. We encourage you to follow along (pause the video as needed). After that we'll do another video for you to practice these commands again.

Don't worry if they are a bit awkward to start. You will get smoother and more fluid with practice!

Emacs Part One



Emacs Part Two



The Screen Tool



Basic ssh-config



Emacs Key Reference (So Far)

Here is a summary of the Emacs commands we learned. They are categorized to help you find what you want. Note that you will learn more soon!

As a quick reminder of the notation:

- **C-s** means "control and s"
- **C-x C-f** means "control and x, then control and f" (you don't need to hold x and f together)
- **C-x f** means "control and x, then [not control and] f"
- **M-x** means "meta x" Meta is often escape. On many keyboards "alt" works too.

Basic Editing

- Save: **C-x C-s**
- Open: **C-x C-f**
 - Creates file if it does not exist
- Quit: **C-x C-c**
- Cancel: **C-g**
- Undo: **C-_**

Python

- Show documentation: **C-c C-d**
- Send buffer to Python: **C-c C-c**
 - If region is selected, send region
- Fix formatting: **C-c f** [note: control-c f, NOT control-c control-f]

Select/Copy/Paste

- Select: **C-space**
- Copy: **M-w**
- Cut: **C-w**
- Paste: **C-y**
 - Unpaste/paste previous paste: **M-y**

Movement

- Start of line: **C-a**
- End of line: **C-e**
- Start of buffer: **M-<**
- End of buffer: **M->**

Split Windows

- Split top+bottom: **C-x 2**
- Split right+left: **C-x 3**
- Unsplit completely: **C-x 1**
- Move to next split window: **C-x o**
- Change what buffer is showing here: **C-x b**