Emacs Command Reference Page

1. Nomenclature

C-key   Hold the 'Control key' down while hitting "key"

A-key   Hold the "Alt Key" down while hitting "key". *On Windows, you can use the "Alt Key" or "Escape Key" and on Solaris you use the "Escape Key" or the "Meta (black diamond) key". these are used in place of the "Meta" key, from the original emacs on Symbolics computers, hence you will see "M-" when you type "Alt" or "Escape".*

A-x command Hold the "Alt" Key down while hitting the "x" key, then type the command shown

<space> Spacebar

2. Program Control

C-x C-f Open or Create a file
C-x C-s Save file
C-x s   Save all open buffers
C-x C-w Save file as...
C-x C-c Exit Emacs
C-g   Cancel current command
C-l   Redisplay screen and center on cursor
C-/   Undo action (keystroke or command)
C-x d   Open Directory

3. Cursor Movement

C-n   Move cursor down one line
C-p   Move cursor up one line
C-f   Move cursor forward one line
C-b   Move cursor back one line
C-a   Move cursor to beginning of line
C-e   Move cursor to end of line
C-v   Move one page down
A-v   Move one page up
A-<   Move to beggining of file
A->   Move to end of file
A-x goto-line n Go to line n

4. Editing

C-k   Erase(Kill) line. Does not remove newline at end unless line is empty. Content Removed is sent to Kill Ring Buffer
C-d   Erase next Character
A-d   Erase Word
Delete   Delete next character
C-<space> Begin Marking of Region at Cursor
C-w   Delete region from begin of mark to current cursor position. Content is moved to Kill Ring Buffer
C-y   Insert content(Yank) of Kill Ring Buffer at cursor position
A-y   If typed after a C-y, it goes through any entries in the Kill Ring and replaces the C-y insert with the next former Kill Ring Entry
A-w   Copy content of region from marked begging to current cursor location into the Kill Ring Buffer
C-t   Transpose characters on either side of cursor
A-t   Transpose words on either side of cursor
C-q   Escape the special meaning of the next chacter, if you want to insert a ^C into the code, you type C-q C-c.
C-c C-c Comment out a marked region
C-u C-c C-c Un-comment out the marked region

5. Search and Replace

C-s   Search for string starting at the cursor.. The line at the bottom of the window has you type in the string you search for. The search is done as you type. To look for the next occurance, hit C-s again, and your last entry is used as the default search string. If you hit the bottom of the buffer, you type C-s again to go back to the top.
C-r   Reverse search. Same as C-s above, except it searches backward from the cursor

A-x replace-string   Works from current cursor location. Begins a two part dialog, at the bottom of the window it first asks for the string you want to search for, and then asks for what you want to replace it with. This operation immediately works on the entire buffer

A-%   Query replace string. Works from current cursor location. Begins a two part dialog, at the bottom of the window it asks you what you want to search for and then what you want to replace it with. It then searches for each occurance of the string and highlights the match. If you want the replacement to occur, hit the spacebar, if you want it to skip this match, hit the "delete" key.

6. Buffers, Regions, & Windows

C-x 2   Split window into two equal sized buffers, one on top of the other

C-x 3   Split window into two equal sized buffers, one to the left/right of the other.

C-x o   Move the cursor to the next buffer in the visible window

C-x 5 2   Create a new window, with the contents of the current buffer in the new window as well

C-x 1   If in a two buffer window, have the buffer that the cursor is in take up the entire window.

C-x 0   If in a two buffer window, have the buffer that the cursor is *not* in take up the entire window

C-x b   Shift back to the most recent buffer you were visiting prior to your current buffer

C-x b filename Shift to the named filename buffer

C-x C-b List all of the buffers currently opened. If the cursor is on a line in this buffer window, typing an "e" will open that buffer in the current buffer, typing an "o" will open it in a second buffer in the current window.

C-x k   Kill the current buffer. If the buffer is not saved you will be prompted to save it

7. Java Development Environment (JDE) Commands

C-c C-v C-c   Compile the object in the current buffer

C-c C-v C-r   Run main method of object in current buffer

C-c C-v C-j   Run the "beanshell" java interpreter. Allows you to run an interactive java shell

8. Printing

A-x print-buffer Prints the current buffer

A-x print-region Prints the current marked region

9. Command Shell

A-x shell Creates a command shell on the native OS. All of emacs commands work within this shell for cutting and pasting.

A-p   Yank command from prior command history

A-n   Next command from prior command history

C-x k   Kill buffer and the shell along with it

10.Additional Notes:

Emacs is fantistically customizable and flexible. Check the GNU website for more information about customizing emacs. If you are using JDE, you can use project files for a package directory, which allows you to customize emacs settings for each package you work in.