

# GNU Emacs Survival Card

for version 30

In the following, **C-z** means hit the ‘z’ key while holding down the *Ctrl* key. **M-z** means hit the ‘z’ key while hitting the *Meta* (labeled *Alt* on some keyboards) or after hitting *Esc* key.

## Running Emacs

To enter GNU Emacs, just type its name: `emacs`. Emacs divides the frame into several areas: menu line, buffer area with the edited text, mode line describing the buffer in the window above it, and a minibuffer/echo area in the last line.

<b>C-x C-c</b>	quit Emacs
<b>C-x C-f</b>	edit file; this command uses the minibuffer to read the file name; use this to create new files by entering the name of the new file
<b>C-x C-s</b>	save the file
<b>C-x k</b>	kill a buffer
<b>C-g</b>	in most context: cancel, stop, abort partially typed or executing command
<b>C-x u</b>	undo

## Moving About

<b>C-1</b>	scroll current line to center of window
<b>C-x b</b>	switch to another buffer
<b>M-&lt;</b>	move to beginning of buffer
<b>M-&gt;</b>	move to end of buffer
<b>M-g M-g</b>	go to a given line number

## Multiple Windows

<b>C-x 0</b>	remove the current window from the display
<b>C-x 1</b>	make active window the only window
<b>C-x 2</b>	split window horizontally
<b>C-x 3</b>	split window vertically
<b>C-x o</b>	move to other window

## Regions

Emacs defines a ‘region’ as the space between the *mark* and the *point*. A mark is set with **C-space**. The point is at the cursor position.

<b>M-h</b>	mark entire paragraph
<b>C-x h</b>	mark entire buffer

## Killing and Copying

<b>C-w</b>	kill region
<b>M-w</b>	copy region to kill-ring
<b>C-k</b>	kill from the cursor all the way to the end of the line
<b>M-DEL</b>	kill word
<b>C-y</b>	yank back the last kill ( <b>C-w C-y</b> combination could be used to move text around)
<b>M-y</b>	replace last yank with previous kill

## Searching

<b>C-s</b>	search for a string
<b>C-r</b>	search for a string backwards
<b>RET</b>	quit searching
<b>M-C-s</b>	regular expression search
<b>M-C-r</b>	reverse regular expression search
Use <b>C-s</b> or <b>C-r</b> again to repeat the search in either direction.	

## Tags

Tags tables files record locations of function and procedure definitions, global variables, data types and anything else convenient. To create a tags table file, type ‘ <code>etags input_files</code> ’ as a shell command.	
<b>M-.</b>	find a definition
<b>M-,</b>	pop back to where <b>M-.</b> was last invoked
<b>M-x tags-query-replace</b>	run query-replace on all files recorded in tags table

## Compiling

<b>M-x compile</b>	compile code in active window
<b>C-c C-c</b>	go to the next compiler error, when in the compile window or
<b>C-x ‘</b>	when in the window with source code

## Dired, the Directory Editor

<b>C-x d</b>	invoke Dired
<b>d</b>	flag this file for deletion
<b>~</b>	flag all backup files for deletion
<b>u</b>	remove deletion flag
<b>x</b>	delete the files flagged for deletion
<b>C</b>	copy file
<b>g</b>	update the Dired buffer
<b>f</b>	visit the file described on the current line
<b>s</b>	switch between alphabetical date/time order

## Reading and Sending Mail

<b>M-x rmail</b>	start reading mail
<b>q</b>	quit reading mail
<b>h</b>	show headers
<b>d</b>	mark the current message for deletion
<b>x</b>	remove all messages marked for deletion
<b>C-x m</b>	begin composing a message
<b>C-c C-c</b>	send the message and switch to another buffer
<b>C-c C-f C-c</b>	move to the ‘Cc’ header field, creating one if there is none

## Miscellaneous

<b>M-q</b>	fill paragraph
<b>M-/</b>	expand previous word dynamically
<b>C-z</b>	iconify (suspend) Emacs when running it under X or shell, respectively
<b>M-x revert-buffer</b>	replace the text being edited with the text of the file on disk

## Query Replace

M-%	interactively search and replace
M-C-%	using regular expressions
Valid responses in query-replace mode are	
SPC	replace this one, go on to next
,	replace this one, don't move
DEL	skip to next without replacing
!	replace all remaining matches
^	back up to the previous match
RET	exit query-replace
C-r	enter recursive edit (M-C-c to exit)

## Regular Expressions

.	(dot) any single character except a newline
*	zero or more repeats
+	one or more repeats
?	zero or one repeat
[...]	denotes a class of character to match
[^...]	negates the class
\c	quote characters otherwise having a special meaning in regular expressions
... ... ...	matches one of the alternatives ("or")
\( ... \)	groups a series of pattern elements to a single element
\n	same text as <i>n</i> th group
^	matches at line beginning
\$	matches at line end
\w	matches word-syntax character
\W	matches non-word-syntax character
\<	matches at word beginning
\>	matches at word end
\b	matches at word break
\B	matches at non-word break

## Registers

C-x r s	save region in register
C-x r i	insert register contents into buffer
C-x r SPC	save value of point in register
C-x r j	jump to point saved in register

## Rectangles

C-x r r	copy rectangle to register
C-x r k	kill rectangle
C-x r y	yank rectangle
C-x r t	prefix each line with a string
C-x r o	open rectangle, shifting text right
C-x r c	blank out rectangle

## Shells

M-x shell	start a shell within Emacs
M-!	execute a shell command
M-	run a shell command on the region
C-u M-	filter region through a shell command

## Spelling Check

M-\$	check spelling of word at the cursor
M-x ispell-region	check spelling of all words in region
M-x ispell-buffer	check spelling of entire buffer

## International Character Sets

C-x RET C-\	select and activate input method for the current buffer
C-\	enable or disable input method
M-x list-input-methods	show all input methods
M-x set-language-environment	specify principal language
C-x RET c	set coding system for next command
M-x find-file-literally	visit file with no conversion of any kind
M-x list-coding-systems	show all coding systems
M-x prefer-coding-system	choose preferred coding system

## Keyboard Macros

C-x (	start defining a keyboard macro
C-x )	end keyboard macro definition
C-x e	execute last-defined keyboard macro
C-u C-x (	append to last keyboard macro
M-x name-last-kbd-macro	name last keyboard macro

## Simple Customization

M-x customize	customize variables and faces
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## Getting Help

Emacs does command completion for you. Typing M-x *tab* or *space* gives a list of Emacs commands.

C-h	Emacs help
C-h t	run the Emacs tutorial
C-h i	enter Info, the documentation browser
C-h a	show commands matching a string (apropos)
C-h k	display documentation of the function invoked by keystroke

Emacs gets into different *modes*, each of which customizes Emacs for editing text of a particular sort. The mode line contains names of the current modes, in parentheses.

C-h m	get mode-specific information
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source for this card, see the Emacs distribution,  
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