# Using the Elan editor

## Editor keys – quick reference

If the action for a key is not possible *given the current selection*, pressing the key will have no effect. (Greyed-out options are not yet implemented).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key** | **Currently selected …** | | |
| **Nothing** | **Frame** | **Field** |
| **Navigation** | | | |
| **Home** | Select first *frame* in file. | First *peer-level* frame. | Move text-cursor to start of field. |
| **End** | Select last *frame* in file. | Last *peer-level* frame. | Move text-cursor to end of field. |
| **Enter** or **Tab** | Select first *field* in file. | First *field* in frame.  If no fields, next frame. | Select next field. |
| **Shift-Enter** or **Shift-Tab** | Select last *field* in file. | Select last *field* in previous frame – or frame itself if none. | Select previous field. |
| **↑** | - | Select previous frame  (within peer-level only). | Select previous *frame*  (in tab order). |
| **↓** | Same as **Home.** | Select next frame (within peer-level only). | Select next *frame*  (in tab order). |
| **←** | - | Select *parent* frame (if any). | Move text-cursor left within field. |
| **→** | Same as **Home.** | Select first *child* frame (if any). | Move text-cursor right within field. |
| **Shift-↑** | - | *Add* prev. frame (peer-level) to current selection. | - |
| **Shift-↓** | - | *Add* next frame (peer-level) to current selection. | - |
| **Esc** | Escape frames (unselect everything) | | Escape from field – select enclosing frame |
| **Outlining** | | | |
| **Ctrl-o** | - | Toggle (expand/collapse) outlining on selected frame. | Toggle (expand/collapse) outlining on the frame enclosing this field. |
| **Ctrl-O**  (Ctrl-Shift-o) | Toggle (expand/collapse) outlining on *all* frames. | Toggle (expand/collapse) outlining on *all* frames. | Toggle (expand/collapse) outlining on *all* frames. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Editing** | | | |
| **Backspace** | - | Delete a just-created frame if it has not been edited or added-into.  (Currently implemented for Selector frames only.) | Delete character to the left of the cursor. |
| **Delete** | - | Delete whole frame (dialog requests confirmation or options).  As a *temporary* *solution* (because high-risk) you can delete a whole frame by selecting it and pressing **Ctrl-Delete** or **Ctrl-d** | Delete the character to the right of the cursor. |
| **Insert** | - | Insert a selector-frame (‘new code’) *above* selected, at peer level. | Characters are *always* inserted just by typing  (**Insert** does nothing). |
| **Shift-Insert** | - | Insert a selector-frame (‘new code’) *below* selected, at peer level. | - |
| **Ctrl-↑** | - | Move selected frame up, *within peer level.* | - |
| **Ctrl -↓** | - | Move selected frame down, *within peer level.* | - |
| **Ctrl-c** | - | Copy selected frame to the scratchpad | - |
| **Ctrl-v** | - | Paste the most recent item added to the scratchpad in *above* the currently selected frame | - |
| **Ctrl-z** | <- Undo last operation -> | | |
| **Ctrl-y** | <- Redo last undo -> | | |

## Mouse operation – quick reference

* To select a *frame*, click on a *keyword* in the frame. (You can successfully click in several other places within the frame, but the simplest rule to remember is click on any keyword).
* To select an additional frame (‘multi-select’), hold down the Shift key on the keyboard and click on the frame to add. Note that all the multi-selected frames must be at the same peer-level.
* To select a field, click on the text (or, if empty, the prompt) shown for that field
* To collapse a multi-line frame, double-click on the keyword at the start of the frame
* To expand a collapsed frame, double-click on the keyword at the start of the frame (or the ‘+’ symbol in front of it)

(Greyed-out options are not yet implemented).

* To move selected frame, or frames, up or down *within the same peer level* hold down the **Ctrl** key and drag the mouse, or move the scroll wheel
* For all other editing operations, right-click on the selected frame or field and select option from the pop-up menu.
* Positioning the cursor *within a field* by mouse-click

# Important features planned but *not yet implemented*

* Validation of syntax for *all fields* (currently only a few are properly validated) - including expressions (currently ‘anything goes’ for expressions!)
* Validation of identifiers & Types (with reference to the symbol table)
* Auto-complete options for identifiers and types
* Proper (safe) deletion of frames
* Line numbers shown in the editor window
* Colouring of code in fields
* Cut and Paste to ‘backpack’ (which can hold multiple entries)
* Undo and Redo
* Option to use a non-existent variable, function, procedure and from that use create the signature for a definition (programming ‘top down’ or ‘by procrastination’)