

GNU Emacs Reference Card Reloaded
(for version 27)

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Starting Emacs
To enter GNU Emacs 27, just type its name: emacs

Leaving Emacs
suspend Emacs (or iconify it under X) C-z
exit Emacs permanently C-x C-c

Files

read a file into Emacs C-x C-f
open file at (relative or abs.) point M-x ffap
open file at (relative or abs.) point M-x
in another window ffaow
save a file back to disk C-x C-s
save all files C-x s
insert contents of another file into this buffer C-x i
replace this file with the file you really want C-x C-v
write buffer to a specified file C-x C-w
toggle read-only status of buffer C-x C-q

Getting Help
The help system is simple. Type C-h (or F1) and follow the directions. If you are a first-time user, type C-h t for a tutorial.

remove help window C-x 1
scroll help window C-M-v
apropos: show commands matching a string C-h a
describe the function a key runs C-h k
describe a function C-h f
get mode-specific information C-h m

Error Recovery
abort partially typed or executing command C-g
recover files lost by a system crash M-x recover-session
undo an unwanted change C-x u, C-_ or C-/
restore a buffer to its original contents M-x revert-buffer
redraw garbaged screen C-l

Search
Incremental search
search forward C-s
search backward C-r
regular expression search C-M-s
reverse regular expression search C-M-r
select previous search string M-p
select next later search string M-n
exit incremental search RET
undo effect of last character DEL
abort current search C-g

Use C-s or C-r again to repeat the search in either direction. If Emacs is still searching, C-g cancels only the part not matched.

Occur search

List occurrences M-s o
(creates new window)
List occurrences of word at point M-s .

Miscellaneous
Toggle case sensitivity of search M-x
toggle-case-fold-search

Dired (C-x d)

Go to next/previous entry n / p
Create directory +
Cd up ^
Open file RET / f
Open file in other window o
Open file in other windows, no select C-o
Mark entry m
Mark entry defined by regexp %m
Mark all files by grep-ing content %g
Flag entry for deletion d
Flag entry defined by regexp %d
Prompt for copy location C
Apply mv to entry R
Create hard link H
Create symbolic link S
Change entry permission M
Unflag files u
Confirm and delete flagged entries x
Execute a command on selected entries !
Idem, asynchronously &
Compare entry to =
Query regexp replace in selected entries Q
Regexp occur in selected entries

Motion

entity to move over	backward	forward
character	C-b	C-f
word	M-b	M-f
line	C-p	C-n
go to line beginning (or end)	C-a	C-e
sentence	M-a	M-e
paragraph	M-{	M-}
page	C-x [C-x]
sexp	C-M-b	C-M-f
function	C-M-a	C-M-e
go to buffer beginning (or end)	M-<	M->
scroll to next screen		C-v
scroll to previous screen		M-v
scroll left		C-x <
scroll right		C-x >
scroll current line to center, top, bottom		C-l
goto line		M-g g
goto char		M-g c
back to indentation		M-m
goto prior mark (see Marking)		C-u C-SPC

Killing and Deleting

entity to kill	backward	forward
character (delete, not kill)	DEL	C-d
word	M-DEL	M-d
line (to end of)	M-0 C-k	C-k
sentence	C-x DEL	M-k
sexp	M-- C-M-k	C-M-k
kill region		C-w

copy region to kill ring M-w
If no region selected, copy line.
kill through next occurrence of *char* M-z *char*
yank back last thing killed C-y
replace last yank with previous kill M-y
*Italicised: disable **smartparens** first.*

Marking
set mark here C-@ or C-SPC
exchange point and mark C-x C-x
set mark *arg* words away M-@
mark paragraph M-h
mark page C-x C-p
mark sexp C-M-@
mark function C-M-h
mark entire buffer C-x h

Query Replace
(current buffer)
interactively replace a text string M-%
using regular expressions M-x query-replace-regexp
C-M-%

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

Multiple Windows
When two commands are shown, the second is a similar command for a frame instead of a window.

delete all other windows C-x 1 C-x 5 1
split window, above and below C-x 2 C-x 5 2
delete this window C-x 0 C-x 5 0
split window, side by side C-x 3
scroll other window C-M-v
switch cursor to another window C-x o C-x 5 o

S-<LEFT/RIGHT/UP/DOWN>

select buffer in other window C-x 4 b C-x 5 b
display buffer in other window C-x 4 C-o C-x 5 C-o

C-S-<LEFT/RIGHT/UP/DOWN>

find file in other window C-x 4 f C-x 5 f
find file read-only in other window C-x 4 r C-x 5 r
run Dired in other window C-x 4 d C-x 5 d
find tag in other window C-x 4 . C-x 5 .
grow window taller / smaller (C-u N) C-x ^ /
C-u -N C-x ^

shrink window narrower C-x {
grow window wider C-x }

Formatting
indent current line (mode-dependent) TAB
indent region (mode-dependent) C-M-\
indent sexp (mode-dependent) C-M-q
indent region rigidly arg columns C-x TAB
indent for comment/uncomment M-;

Comment region	C-c C-c
uncomment region	C- - C-c C-c
insert newline after point	C-o
move rest of line vertically down	C-M-o
delete blank lines around point	C-x C-o
join line with previous (with arg, next)	M-^
delete all white space around point	M-\
put exactly one space at point	M-SPC
fill paragraph	M-q
Cut cooment at point	M-j
set fill column to arg	C-x f
set prefix each line starts with	C-x .
set face	M-o

Case Change

uppercase word	M-u
lowercase word	M-l
capitalize word	M-c
uppercase region	C-x C-u
lowercase region	C-x C-l

The Minibuffer

The following keys are defined in the minibuffer.

complete as much as possible	TAB
complete up to one word	SPC
complete and execute	RET
show possible completions	?
fetch previous minibuffer input	M-p
fetch later minibuffer input or default	M-n
regex search backward through history	M-r
regex search forward through history	M-s
abort command	C-g

Type C-x ESC ESC to edit and repeat the last command that used the minibuffer. Type F10 to activate menu bar items on text terminals.

Buffers

select another buffer	C-x b
list all buffers	C-x C-b
kill a buffer	C-x k

Transposing

transpose characters	C-t
transpose words	M-t
transpose lines	C-x C-t
transpose sexps	C-M-t

Spelling Check

check spelling of current word	M-\$
check spelling of all words in region	M-x ispell-region check
spelling of entire buffer	M-x ispell-buffer toggle on-the-fly
spell checking	M-x flyspell-mode

Tags

find a tag (a definition)	M-.
find next occurrence of tag	C-u M-.
specify a new tags file	M-x visit-tags-table
regex search on all files in tags table	M-x tags-search
run query-replace on all the files	M-x tags-query-replace
continue last tags search or query-replace	M-,
Find references	M- ?
List all tags	M-x list-table

Shells

execute a shell command	M-!
execute a shell command asynchronously	M-&
run a shell command on the region	M-
filter region through a shell command	C-u M-
start a shell in window *shell*	M-x shell

Rectangles

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

Abbrevs

add global abbrev	C-x a g
add mode-local abbrev	C-x a l
add global expansion for this abbrev	C-x a i g
add mode-local expansion for this abbrev	C-x a i l
explicitly expand abbrev	C-x a e
expand previous word dynamically	M-/

Miscellaneous

numeric argument	C-u num
negative argument	M--
quoted insert	C-q char
Repeat latest command (N times)	(C-u N) C-x z then z
Man	M-x man/woman M-x calendar
Calendar	

Regular Expressions

any single character except a newline	.	(dot)
zero or more repeats	*	
one or more repeats	+	
zero or one repeat	?	
quote special characters	\	
quote regular expression special character c	\c	
alternative (“or”)		
grouping	(...)	
shy grouping	(:? ...)	
explicit numbered grouping	(:NUM ...)	
same text as nth group	\n	
at word break	\b	
not at word break	\B	

entity	match start	match end
line	^	\$
word	\<	\>
symbol	_<	_>
buffer	\'	\'
class of characters	match these	match others

explicit set	[...]	[^ ...]
word-syntax character	\w	\W
character with syntax c	\sc	\Sc
character with category c	\cc	\Cc

International Character Sets

specify principal language	C-x RET l
show all input methods	M-x
list-input-methods enable or disable input method	C-\
set coding system for next command	C-x RET c
show all coding systems	M-x list-coding-systems
choose preferred coding system	M-x prefer-coding-system

Info

enter the Info documentation reader	C-h i
find specified function or variable in Info	C-h S
Moving within a node:	

scroll forward	SPC
scroll reverse	DEL
beginning of node	b

Moving between nodes:

next node	n
previous node	p
move up	u
select menu item by name	m
select nth menu item by number (1-9)	n
follow cross reference (return with l)	f
return to last node you saw	l
return to directory node	d
go to top node of Info file	t
go to any node by name	g

Other:

run Info tutorial	h
look up a subject in the indices	i
search nodes for regex	s
quit Info	q

Registers and bookmarks

save region in register	C-x r s
insert register contents into buffer	C-x r i
save value of point in register	C-x r SPC
save point in named bookmark	C-x r m bookmark

jump to point saved in register / bookmark

List all bookmarks

Save current bookmark values

Keyboard Macros

start defining a keyboard macro	C-x (F3
end keyboard macro definition	C-x) F4
execute last-defined keyboard macro	C-x e

append to last keyboard macro C-u C-x (
name last keyboard macro M-x name-last-kbd-macro
insert Lisp definition in buffer M-x insert-kbd-macro
Apply last keyboard macro to all C-x C-k r
lines in the region. apply-macro-to-region-
lines

Commands Dealing with Emacs Lisp

eval sexp before point C-x C-e
eval current defun C-M-x
eval region M-x eval-region
read and eval minibuffer M-:
load a Lisp library from load-path M-x load-library

Simple Customization

customize variables and faces M-x customize
Making global key bindings in Emacs Lisp (example):
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c g") 'search-forward)
(global-set-key (kbd "M-#") 'query-replace-regexp)

Writing Commands

(defun command-name (args) "documentation"
(interactive "template") body)
An example:
(defun this-line-to-top-of-window (line)
"Reposition current line to top of window."
With prefix argument LINE, put point on LINE."
(interactive "P")
(recenter (if (null line)
0
(prefix-numeric-value line))))

The interactive spec says how to read arguments interactively.
Type C-h f interactive RET for more details.

C-type Navigation

Move forward over a balanced expression C-M-f
Move backward over a balanced expression C-M-b
Kill balanced expression (sexp) C-M-k
Put mark after sexp C-M-SPC
Move point to beginning of function C-M-a
Move point to end of function C-M-e
Select current or following funtion C-M-h
Jump to definitions/headers/references M- .
M-x helm-gtags-dwim
Jump back to original location after M- .
Find references/symbols/function calls/pattern C-c g r / s / a / g
List visited tags C-c g h
Inner helm navigation : C-n / p
C-j / RET

Speedbar

Open children of node SPC
Open node in another window RET
Go to parent directory U
Move to next or previous node n / p
Move to next or previous node at current level M-n / M-p
Switch to buffer list using Speedbar presentation b
Switch back to file tree f

Senator and semantic (prefix : C-c ,)

Next/Previous tag n / p
Tag up u
Copy/cut tag M-w / C-w
Go to reference tag g
Inner navigation
Nest/previous n / p
Go to/show RET / SPC
Locally unfold/fold tag + / -
Globally unfold/fold tags C-c C-e / C-c C-r

Projectile (prefix : C-c p-)

Jump to any project file f
List files in project F
List files/buffers/projects h
M-x helm-projectile
Jump to any project directory d
List project buffers b
Jump to recent files e
List files g
Grep in project s g
Multi-occur in project buffers o
Open project buffer (4) C-o
(in other window)
Text replace in current project r
Find reference j
Prior/next buffer
LEFT/RIGHT
Switch projects p
Switch to recent project ESC
Compile at project root c
Configure at project root C
Buffer list by recentcy I
Switch source and header a
Select projectile command M/m
Save all project buffers S
Regenerate TAGS file R
Projectile command list C-h

Compilation (M-x (re)compile)

Display matched location, do not switch point C-o
Move to next error message, do not visit error M-n
Move to previous error, do not visit location M-p
Move to next error message, visit error location M-g n
Move to previous error message, visit error location M-g p
Visit location of error at point RET
Move point to previous error in other file M-{
Move point to next error in other file M-}
Quit compilation buffer q
Compile again (compilation buffer) g
Abort compilation M-x kill
compilation

Fold / Unfold (prefix : C-c @-)

M-x hs-minor-mode
Hide/show current block C-h / s
Toggle show lower blocks C-l
Hide/show all blocks but first lines C-M-h / s

Narrowing (prefix : C-x n)

Hide text below point n
Narrow to current def d

Un-narrow (widen) w

Company-mode

M-n / p
C-w
F1
M-digit
TAB

Magit (launch : C-x g)

c [c | a | f] Prepare for commit | amend | fixup
C-c [C-c | C-k] Commit | Kill commit
P [-F] p Push [--force]
F [p|u|e] Pull [remote|upstream|other]
b l Change branch
\$ View git console
M-p/f Previous/Next com. msg

Helm (prefix : C-c h)

Google suggests g
Color picker c
Imenu i
Inner navigation : C-n / p / j / g
next / previous / select / quit
Occur search in current buffer M-s o
(splits window vertically)
Grep in buffer C-c h r
Helm mark ring C-h SPC

Custom tweaks

Split window horizontally F2
Set mark and deactivate region F7 (= C-SPC C-SPC)
Circle back mark ring F8 (=C-u C-SPC)
Circle back mark ring 2 steps F9 (=C-u C-SPC C-u C-SPC)
Man at point F11
Get to latest mark [and back] M-x get-back | C-u C-x C-x
Apply dos2unix to current buffer M-x d2u
Flush out double blank lines M-x d2e
Apply dos2unix to currentbuffer
and flush out double blank lines M-x ddd
Move end-of-line comment above line
blankline M-x move-comment-up-
blankline
Run bash on region C-M- !
M-x run-bash-on-region

Recompile C-M-y
Next buffer C-*
Previous buffer C-\$
Render HTML in current buffer eww-rcb

Compile your current file via C-c C-c
Compile and run your
current file
(no interactive input) C-c C-r
Do not ask about saving buffers
before compile AND save all buffers (setq
compilation-ask-about-save nil)

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For more Emacs documentation, and the TEX source for this card,
see the Emacs distribution, or
<https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs>