

# GitHub Copilot – IntelliJ Keyboard Shortcuts

This file lists keyboard shortcuts for using GitHub Copilot in JetBrains IntelliJ IDEA. Shortcuts may vary by plugin version and your keymap configuration.

 **Quick tip:** Use "Find Action" to run any Copilot action: **⌘ ⌘ A** (macOS) or **Ctrl+Shift+A** (Windows/Linux)

## Default Shortcuts

Action	macOS	Windows/Linux
Accept inline suggestion	Tab	Tab
Accept word (partial accept)	⌘→ (Cmd+Right)	Ctrl+Right
Dismiss suggestion	Esc	Esc
Next suggestion	⌥] (Option+])	Alt+]
Previous suggestion	⌥[ (Option+[,)]	Alt+[
Open Copilot Chat	⌃ ↩ (Ctrl+Enter) in editor	Ctrl+Enter in editor
Inline Chat (ask about selection)	⌘I (Cmd+I)	Ctrl+I
Show Copilot completions panel	⌥\\ (Option+\)	Alt+\
Toggle Copilot suggestions	Via Settings/Preferences	Via Settings

## Chat-Specific Actions

Action	macOS	Windows/Linux
Open Chat tool window	Find Action → "Copilot Chat"	Find Action → "Copilot Chat"
Submit chat message	↵ (Enter)	Enter
New line in chat	↑ ↵ (Shift+Enter)	Shift+Enter

Action	macOS	Windows/Linux
<b>Clear chat history</b>	Click clear icon	Click clear icon

## Context Menu Actions

Right-click on selected code to access:

- **Explain This** — Get explanation of selected code
- **Generate Tests** — Create unit tests for selection
- **Fix This** — Suggest fixes for issues
- **Generate Docs** — Add documentation comments

## How to verify or change Copilot shortcuts in IntelliJ

1. Open Keymap preferences:
2. macOS: IntelliJ IDEA → Preferences... → Keymap
3. Windows/Linux: File → Settings → Keymap
4. In the Keymap search box, type `Copilot` or `GitHub Copilot` to list plugin actions.  
Also try `Copilot Chat`, `Accept Suggestion`, `Explain Code`, etc.
5. To assign or change a shortcut:
6. Right-click the action → Add Keyboard Shortcut → press the desired key combo → OK.
7. If the key combo conflicts with an existing binding, IntelliJ will warn you; you can decide to remove or reassign the old binding.
8. Quick-run an action without binding: Press Find Action and type the action name:
9. macOS: ⌘ ↑ A (Cmd+Shift+A)
10. Windows/Linux: Ctrl+Shift+A

## Helpful tips and best practices

- Use non-conflicting modifiers: On macOS prefer combining Cmd (⌘) with Ctrl (^) or Option (⌥) for plugin actions to avoid colliding with editing shortcuts.
- Keep accept = Tab if you want the most frictionless inline experience; otherwise pick a dedicated combo for explicit acceptance.

- If you frequently use Copilot Chat, bind a single easy combo (e.g., Ctrl+Alt+C on Windows, Ctrl+Cmd+C on macOS) to open the chat quickly.
- Export your keymap (Keymap settings → gear menu) so you can reuse the shortcuts across machines.

## Troubleshooting

- **Plugin not found:** Confirm GitHub Copilot plugin is installed: Preferences → Plugins → search "GitHub Copilot"
- **No suggestions appearing:** Check Preferences → GitHub Copilot → ensure suggestions are enabled for your file type
- **Chat not working:** Verify you're signed in to GitHub and have an active Copilot subscription (Individual, Business, or Enterprise)
- **Shortcuts not working:** Check for keymap conflicts in Preferences → Keymap → search "Copilot"