

GitHub Copilot Keyboard Shortcuts Reference

Master GitHub Copilot with these essential keyboard shortcuts for maximum productivity across different platforms.

Core Copilot Shortcuts

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Open Copilot Chat	Ctrl + Cmd + I	Ctrl + Alt + I	Ctrl + Alt + I	Open chat panel for conversations
Open Copilot Edits	Shift + Cmd + I	Ctrl + Shift + I	Ctrl + Shift + Alt + I	Start multi-file editing session
Open Quick Chat	Shift + Option + Cmd + L	Ctrl + Shift + Alt + L	Ctrl + Shift + Alt + L	Quick chat overlay
Start Inline Chat	Cmd + I	Ctrl + I	Ctrl + I	Inline chat within editor

Code Completion Shortcuts

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Accept Suggestion	Tab	Tab	Tab	Accept current Copilot suggestion
Accept Word	Cmd + →	Ctrl + →	Ctrl + →	Accept next word of suggestion
Accept Line	Cmd + Shift + →	Ctrl + Shift + →	Ctrl + Shift + →	Accept current line of suggestion

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Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Dismiss Suggestion	Esc	Esc	Esc	Dismiss current suggestion
Next Suggestion	Option +]	Alt +]	Alt +]	Cycle to next suggestion
Previous Suggestion	Option + [Alt + [Alt + [Cycle to previous suggestion
Trigger Suggestion	Option + \	Alt + \	Alt + \	Manually trigger Copilot

Chat Interface Navigation

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Send Message	Cmd + Enter	Ctrl + Enter	Ctrl + Enter	Send chat message
New Chat Session	Cmd + L	Ctrl + L	Ctrl + L	Start new chat thread
Focus Chat Input	Cmd + Shift + L	Ctrl + Shift + L	Ctrl + Shift + L	Focus chat input field
Clear Chat History	Cmd + K	Ctrl + K	Ctrl + K	Clear current chat session
Toggle Chat Panel	Cmd + Shift + C	Ctrl + Shift + C	Ctrl + Shift + C	Show/hide chat panel

Inline Chat Controls

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Accept Changes				

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Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
	Cmd + Enter	Ctrl + Enter	Ctrl + Enter	Apply inline chat changes
Discard Changes	Cmd + Z	Ctrl + Z	Ctrl + Z	Reject inline changes
Show Diff	Cmd + Shift + V	Ctrl + Shift + V	Ctrl + Shift + V	View changes in diff mode
Regenerate Response	Cmd + R	Ctrl + R	Ctrl + R	Generate new response

Editing Session Management

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Add File to Working Set	Cmd + +	Ctrl + +	Ctrl + +	Add current file to editing session
Remove from Working Set	Cmd + -	Ctrl + -	Ctrl + -	Remove file from working set
Apply All Changes	Cmd + Shift + A	Ctrl + Shift + A	Ctrl + Shift + A	Accept all pending changes
Discard All Changes	Cmd + Shift + D	Ctrl + Shift + D	Ctrl + Shift + D	Reject all pending changes
Preview Changes	Cmd + Shift + P	Ctrl + Shift + P	Ctrl + Shift + P	Preview all modifications

Context and Navigation

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Add Selection Context	Cmd + Shift + S	Ctrl + Shift + S	Ctrl + Shift + S	Add selected code as context
Add File Context	Cmd + Shift + F	Ctrl + Shift + F	Ctrl + Shift + F	Add current file as context
Reference Symbol	Cmd + Shift + R	Ctrl + Shift + R	Ctrl + Shift + R	Reference symbol in chat
Go to Definition	F12	F12	F12	Navigate to symbol definition
Find References	Shift + F12	Shift + F12	Shift + F12	Find all symbol references

Quick Actions

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Explain Code	Cmd + Shift + E	Ctrl + Shift + E	Ctrl + Shift + E	Quick explain selected code
Generate Tests	Cmd + Shift + T	Ctrl + Shift + T	Ctrl + Shift + T	Generate tests for selection
Fix Issues	Cmd + .	Ctrl + .	Ctrl + .	Quick fix suggestions
Generate Documentation	Cmd + Shift + /	Ctrl + Shift + /	Ctrl + Shift + /	Generate docs for code
Optimize Code	Cmd + Shift + O	Ctrl + Shift + O	Ctrl + Shift + O	Optimize selected code

Accessibility Shortcuts

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Voice Chat Activation	Cmd + Shift + V	Ctrl + Shift + V	Ctrl + Shift + V	Activate voice input
Read Response Aloud	Cmd + Option + R	Ctrl + Alt + R	Ctrl + Alt + R	Audio playback of response
Accessible Diff View	Cmd + Option + D	Ctrl + Alt + D	Ctrl + Alt + D	Screen reader friendly diff

Terminal Integration

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Terminal Chat	Cmd + Shift + T	Ctrl + Shift + T	Ctrl + Shift + T	Chat with terminal context
Explain Command	Cmd + ?	Ctrl + ?	Ctrl + ?	Explain terminal command
Suggest Command	Cmd + Shift + ?	Ctrl + Shift + ?	Ctrl + Shift + ?	Suggest terminal commands

Customization Shortcuts

Action	MacOS Shortcut	Windows Shortcut	Linux Shortcut	Description
Open Settings	Cmd + ,	Ctrl + ,	Ctrl + ,	Access Copilot settings
Toggle Copilot	Cmd + Shift + \	Ctrl + Shift + \	Ctrl + Shift + \	Enable/disable Copilot
Participant Selector	Cmd + @	Ctrl + @	Ctrl + @	Quick participant selection

Pro Tips for Keyboard Efficiency

Workflow Acceleration

1. **Quick Context Addition**: Use Cmd/Ctrl + Shift + S to quickly add selected code as context
2. **Rapid Iterations**: Use Cmd/Ctrl + R to regenerate responses without retyping
3. **Batch Operations**: Use Cmd/Ctrl + Shift + A to accept all changes in editing sessions
4. **Smart Navigation**: Use F12 and Shift + F12 for quick symbol navigation

Chat Optimization

1. **Session Management**: Use Cmd/Ctrl + L for new sessions, Cmd/Ctrl + K to clear history
2. **Quick Actions**: Memorize quick action shortcuts for common tasks (explain, test, fix)
3. **Context Switching**: Use participant shortcuts (@workspace, @terminal, etc.)
4. **Voice Integration**: Use voice shortcuts for hands-free coding assistance

Editing Session Mastery

1. **Working Set Management**: Quickly add/remove files with +/- shortcuts
2. **Change Review**: Use preview shortcuts before accepting large changes
3. **Selective Application**: Accept/reject individual changes with precise control
4. **Diff Navigation**: Master diff view shortcuts for better change understanding

Customizing Shortcuts

Personal Customization

Access **File > Preferences > Keyboard Shortcuts** (or **Code > Preferences** on macOS) to customize any Copilot shortcuts to match your workflow preferences.

Team Standardization

Use VS Code settings sync or workspace settings files to standardize shortcuts across your development team.

Advanced Bindings

Create custom key bindings for frequently used Copilot commands:

```
{  
  "key": "cmd+shift+x",  
  "command": "workbench.action.chat.open",  
  "args": "@workspace explain this architecture"  
}
```

Platform-Specific Notes

macOS Considerations

- Some shortcuts may conflict with system shortcuts
- Use **System Preferences > Keyboard > Shortcuts** to resolve conflicts
- Consider using **Fn** key for F-key shortcuts if needed

Windows Considerations

- **Alt** key combinations work well for Copilot actions
- **Ctrl + Shift** combinations provide extensive functionality
- Windows key can be used for custom global shortcuts

Linux Considerations

- Key bindings may vary between desktop environments
- GTK and Qt applications may handle shortcuts differently
- Custom window managers may require additional configuration

Remember: Consistent use of keyboard shortcuts significantly accelerates your AI-assisted development workflow!