

Short Guide to Emacs

GNU Emacs is a text editor which is primarily used on Unix-like machines. Emacs is known for its many different commands and functionality that it adds to an editing environment. Emacs also has text coloring to help the user visually identify components of their code.

Short List of Useful Emacs Commands

For more commands, please see: [GNU Emacs Reference Card](#)

Legend:

C- means Ctrl+. Eg. **C-x** means Ctrl-x.

M- means Alt+. Eg. **M-p** means Alt-p.

Two commands on a line means press those in order. E.g. C-x C-c means Ctrl-x then Ctrl-c

- **Opening a file; creates if it does not exist**
 - emacs [filename]
- **Exiting**
 - C-x C-c Save and Exit Emacs
 - C-z Suspend the Session
- **Editing**
 - C-_ or C-/ Undo Change
- **Files**
 - C-x C-f Read a File in Emacs
 - C-x C-s Save a File
- **Searching**
 - C-s Search forward
 - C-r Search backward
 - C-M-s RegEx Search
 - C-M-r Reverse RegEx Search
 - C-g Abort Current Search
- **Shell Command (Execute a shell command while in emacs)**
 - M-! Execute Shell Command

There are many more commands in Emacs that can be explored and may turn out to be helpful. Please see the link above.