

Emacs Quick Reference ([reference manual](#))

"C-" (control) means "hold down Ctrl key"

"M-" (meta) means "hold down Alt key", or "press and release Esc key"

Category	Command	Keystrokes	Mnemonic
Start/Stop	start emacs	emacs	
	exit emacs	C-x C-c	
Files	read a file into Emacs	C-x C-f	find
	create a new file (name it as if it exists)	C-x C-f	find
	save	C-x C-s	save
	save as ...	C-x C-w	write
Cursor Motion	forward (right arrow)	C-f	forward
	backward (left arrow)	C-b	backward
	up (up arrow)	C-p	previous
	down (down arrow)	C-n	next
	jump to start of line	C-a	a = start alphabet
	jump to end of line	C-e	end
	jump to start of buffer	M-<	< = left
	jump to end of buffer	M->	> = right
Cut, Copy, Paste "kill" = "cut", "yank" = "paste"	delete current character	C-d	delete
	delete previous character	Delete or Backspace	
	kill to end of line	C-k	kill
	kill region	C-w	
	copy region	M-w	
	yank back last thing killed	C-y	yank
	replace last yank with previous kill	M-y	
Marking Regions "region" = text between "point" (cursor) and invisible "mark"	set mark here	C-SPACE	
	mark entire buffer	C-x h	
Formatting	indent current line	TAB	
	indent region	M-x indent- region (or C- M-\)	
	fill paragraph	M-q	
Buffers	list all buffers	C-x C-b	buffer
	close a buffer	C-x k	kill
	go to shell buffer	M-x shell	
Error Recovery	abort partially typed	C-g	

	or executing command		
	undo an unwanted change	C-/	undo
	restore a buffer to its original contents	M-x revert-buffer	
The Minibuffer	complete as much as possible	TAB	
	complete up to one word	SPACE	
Type C-x ESC ESC to repeat the last command that used the minibuffer. Then the following keys are defined.	previous minibuffer command	M-p	previous
	next minibuffer command	M-n	next
Multiple Windows	make one window	C-x 1	one
	delete this window	C-x 0	zero
	split window vertically	C-x 2	two
	split window horizontally	C-x 3	
	switch to another window	C-x o	other
Incremental Search Then type a word for which to search. Use C-s or C-r again to repeat the search in either direction.	search forward	C-s	search
	search backward	C-r	reverse
	regex search forward	C-S	
	regex search backward	C-R	
	exit search	Enter	
	find all occurrences	M-x occur	
Query Replace yes = "y" or SPACE, no = "n"	interactively replace text	M-x query-replace (or M-%)	
	interactively replace regexp	M-x query-replace-regexp	
Directory Editor to list and manage files find directory (C-x C-f .), then "?" for help	delete	d	
	flag backup files	~	
	expunge	x	
	find	f	
	rename	r	
	copy	f	
	find	f	
	create directory	+	
Help	help	C-h (or M-x help)	help
	show function a key	C-h k	key

	runs		
	describe a function	C-h f	function
	tutorial	C-h t	tutorial