

Menus and iMenu

Description	Keystroke	Function	Notes / Example description
Emacs Menus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help & Customization Using Emacs Menubar Emacs iMenu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> find definitions using imenu Control imenu behaviour Show imenu variables List & navigate to definitions Navigate to definitions in other buffers Select completion method Emacs Buffer Menu <p>See also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 Buffers 🔗 Completion/Input 🔗 Navigation 🔗 Speedbar 	<p>Emacs has several top-level general purpose menus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Emacs MenuBar is accessible when Emacs is running in graphics mode as well as when it is running in text terminal mode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In graphics mode, Emacs MenuBar (the global menu) in the location controlled by the Operating System. For example, on macOS, the graphical mode Emacs Menu bar shows in the macOS menu bar. You can also open a local view of the MenuBar with <f10> the key; it shows overlplayed on top of the current Emacs frame. You can also use the mouse. In text terminal mode, Emacs MenuBar is displayed at the top of the Emacs frame when the menu-bar-mode is active (the default). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigate the menu by typing the <f10> key. You can also use the mouse if it was enabled (via <f11><f12> in PEL). See 🔗 Mouse for information about using the mouse. If the menu-bar-mode is not active you can navigate the MenuBar in the ini buffer by typing the <f10> key. Emacs iMenu used to find major definitions in a file by their names. It shows information about the current buffer such as function names, etc... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major mode of the current buffer must support imenu. See 📖 iMenu/Speedbar support and 📖 Speedbar/iMenu Mode Compatibility. The iMenu system comes with a simple user interface providing tab-completion list. The iMenu items can also be displayed in the Index section of the MenuBar and the BufferMenu. 📖 The iMenu behaviour and user interface can be modified and extended by several external packages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEL provides the following customization control which provides access to some of these packages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pel-imenu-follows-order-p user-option controls whether entries are sorted or follows the order of declaration in the file. 📦 flimenu external package 🔗 activated by pel-use-flimenu user-option, controls whether iMenu lists are flatten or hierarchical. 📦 imenu+ external library 🔗 activated by pel-use-imenu+ user-option, activates and extends the basic iMenu MenuBar with a DEFS index entry that supports sorting options, ability to index commented definitions, bookmarks, etc.... ⚠️ There is a bug in imenu+.el, reported to its author, but that my not be fixed in the version you use. I created a patch for imenu+.el version 1145 you can use to fix the bug until it has been merged in. 📦 imenu-anywhere external package 🔗 activated by pel-use-imenu-anywhere user-option is used by pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer to jump to symbol definition of any buffer using one of the following input completion method. The user-option must be set to one of the following values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use emacs-default: basic Emacs completion. Use tab to see possible matches. Use Ido. 🔗 pel-use-ido must be turned on. Use Ivy. 📦 Requires ivy mode 🔗 pel-use-ivy must be on. Use helm. 📦 Requires Helm mode 🔗 pel-use-helm must be turned on. 📦 imenu-extra external package 🔗 activated by pel-use-imenu-extra user-option, adds menu entries extracted from the major mode. 📦 popup-imenu external package 🔗 activated by pel-use-popup-imenu user-option, provides one pop-up menu for the iMenu content. 📦 popup-switcher external package 🔗 activated by pel-use-popup-switcher user-option, provides the same as popup-imenu and more. <p>3. Emacs Buffer Menu, which list all buffers (see 🔗 Buffers). This opens locally, popping-up over the current frame when using the C-<f10> key.</p>		
Last updated on:	2025-04-15		
Open this PDF file. See also: 🔗 Help/Info	<f11> <f10> <f1>	(pel-help-pdf & optional OPEN-WEB-PAGE)	Open the 🔗 Menus local PDF. If the prefix argument (like C-u or M--) is used, then it opens the remote GitHub hosted raw PDF instead. If the pel-flip-help-pdf-arg user-option is set it's the other way around.
🔗 Customize PEL imenu support	<f11> <f10> <f2>	(pel-customize-pel & optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Customize PEL imenu support. Provides access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pel-imenu-follows-order-p pel-use-flimenu pel-use-imenu+ pel-use-imenu-anywhere pel-use-imenu-extra pel-use-popup-imenu pel-use-popup-switcher If OTHER-WINDOW is non-nil (use C-u), display in another window.
🔗 Customize Emacs menu mechanism	<f11> <f10> <f3>	(pel-customize-library & optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Customize Emacs packages related to menu and imenu. Provides access to the customization of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> menu imenu Imenu-Plus flimenu popup-imenu popup-switcher When a prefix argument (like C-u) opens the buffer inside another window.
Using Emacs MenuBar	<p>The MenuBar is shown when the menu-bar-mode is active. It is active by default.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In graphics mode, the MenuBar does not take any extra space, as opposed to the extra row at the top of the frame in text terminal mode. If it is not active, hitting <f10> will open the menu inside the minibuffer are (as <f11> <f10> t does). To activate or de-activate the menu-bar-mode, use the <f11> C-<f10> key stroke. 		
Open main menu	<f10>	(menu-bar-open & optional FRAME)	Start key navigation of the menu bar in current frame. <p>🔗 If pel-use-imenu+ user-option is on, the index is always active under the DEFS menu entry. It also includes ability to toggle sorting, indexing commented definitions, and adds several categories in Emacs Lisp code.</p>
Open main menu in Minibuffer	<f11> <f10> t	(tmm-menubar & optional X-POSITION)	Opens Emacs menu in the minibuffer instead of the graphical or text pop-up menu. Useful from the keyboard. <p>🟢 🗂️ The standard binding for this command is M-`. But PEL re-binds M-` to something else.</p> <p>🟢 Once the Index has been added to the menu (see below), you can use the <f11><f10> i keys to list the items in the minibuffer. The list provided is not shown in order though. The MenuBar Index section is listed in order.</p>
Toggle MenuBar Mode	<f11> <f10> B	(menu-bar-mode & optional ARG)	Toggle display of a menu bar on each frame (Menu Bar mode). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a prefix argument ARG, enable Menu Bar mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise. This command applies to all frames that exist and frames to be created in the future.
Emacs iMenu, Index of items in buffer.	<p>Emacs iMenu (index menu) facility provides a menu of the file's items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programming language function definitions, type definitions, variables, etc... Markup file elements, for example the list of document sections for a reStructuredText or Markdown text file. <p>The imenu items can be displayed in several ways, with 3 of them controlled directly by the imenu library:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Emacs MenuBar, as a drop-down menu under Index. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This must first be activated. To activate it hit <f11> <f10> I. Then hit <f10> to open the MenuBar and navigate to the Index entry. Or one of the two representation, when the imenu command executes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a <i>completion buffer</i> (the default). Type the symbol you search and use tab completion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type tab tab to see the complete list. Hit return to select and move the point to the location of that item. As a <i>pop-up menu</i>. <p>With PEL, you can dynamically change the following imenu properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> toggle between showing the imenu entries in a hierarchical fashion or a flat list (if the number of items is smaller than imenu max size) toggle between entries listed alphabetically or in order of appearance in the file with pel-imenu-toggle-follows-order toggle between using a completion buffer and a pop-up menu by executing the pel-imenu-toggle-popup <p>See also:</p> <p>📖 iMenu/Speedbar support</p> <p>The following commands allow you to use the iMenu mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's also commands you can use to investigate iMenu support while developing support for a major-mode. 		
Add Buffer's iMenu to menu bar	<f11> <f10> I	(imenu-add-menubar-index)	Activates the Index entry in the Menu bar for the current buffer. The MenuBar Index lists functions, variables, types, etc.. Once created, the index is available on the MenuBar. It is also available via the following keystrokes: ' <f11><f10> i '

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Find definitions using IMenu See also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 Completion/Input 🔗 Navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ <f11> <f10> i ⌨️ M-g i ⌨️ M-g M-i 	(imenu INDEX-ITEM)	Lists imenu-detected items from the current buffer (according to its major mode). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, in a elisp file, the entry points are the function definitions and may include the variables and other items depending what function does the parsing (it can be semantic which provides more information). Provides one of the following interfaces to let user select entry to jump to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The default: input completion, using the minibuffer window and tab completion. a pop-up window : available in Graphics mode selected by mouse or in both graphics and terminal (TTY) modes when the imenu-use-popup-menu user-option is turned on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with PEL you can use pel-imenu-toggle-popup (bound to M-g <f4> p) to toggle the user interface used by imenu.
	🍌 PEL provides the pel-goto-symbol bound to M-g h , to move point to the location of a symbol listed by imenu but also other user interfaces such as Ido, Ivy, Helm and some other popup menu mechanisms. See 🔗 Completion/Input and 🔗 Navigation .		
Toggle imenu between a hierarchical and a flat list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ <f11> <f10> f ⌨️ M-g <f4> f 	(pel-imenu-toggle-flatten)	Toggles between imenu using a hierarchical menu (the default) and a flat menu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that when the number of items to display exceeds the maximum length of the imenu, there imenu will be split anyway in multiple sections and will end up being “hierarchical” but instead of being split by type of content, it will be split on type and by alphabetical names. 🔧 The maximum number of entries in a imenu list is controlled by 2 imenu user-options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> imenu-max-items: size limit of a pop-up imenu. imenu-max-item-length: size limit of a drop down imenu 📦 Requires flimenu external package 🔧 activated by pel-use-flimenu user-option.
Toggle order of appliance in the imenu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ <f11> <f10> o ⌨️ M-g <f4> o 	(pel-imenu-toggle-follows-order)	Changes the order of entries in the imenu between the default and the order of appearance of the symbols in the buffer. 🔧 Set the default with the pel-imenu-index-follows-order-p user-option.
Toggle imenu I/F between completion buffer and pop-up menu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ <f11> <f10> p ⌨️ M-g <f4> p 	(pel-imenu-toggle-popup &optional IN-CURRENT-BUFFER)	Toggle the use of pop-up menu versus completion buffer for imenu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By default this applies to imenu issued in all buffers, but with the IN-CURRENT-BUFFER argument set the change applies only to the current buffer.
Toggle automatic imenu rescan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ <f11> <f10> R ⌨️ M-g <f4> R 	(pel-imenu-toggle-auto-rescan)	Toggle imenu automatic rescan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Default is set by imenu-auto-rescan user-option.
Force immediate imenu rescan	⌨️ <f11> <f10> r	(pel-imenu-rescan)	Force imenu to immediately rescan the current buffer to find definitions.
Print imenu controlling variables See also: 🔗 Help/Info	⌨️ <f11> ? e i	(pel-imenu-print-vars)	Print the value of the imenu variables used to control the imenu functionality for the current buffer. Symbols are clickable buttons to help on the symbol. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print this information in a “imenu-dbg” buffer. Use this when investigating the imenu support for a major mode: use as a (currently primitive) Emacs development tool.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List and navigate to symbol definition in <i>current</i> buffer In all opened buffers See also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 Completion/Input 🔗 Navigation 🔗 Speedbar 	The following command can be used to move point to any quickly selected a symbol definition, in any major mode supported by Emacs imenu . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most major modes for programming and markup languages support imenu. PEL adds extra support for some modes. PEL provides 2 commands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pel-goto-symbol lists target symbols in the current buffer, allowing you to select one and jump to it. pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer does the same but for all buffers currently opened. For each of these commands PEL provides a selectable user interface. The user interface used for each command when Emacs starts is selected by a customization user-option variable. During an editing session PEL provides a UI selection command. In both cases the available user interfaces depend on what you activate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customize pel-goto-symbol user interface with M-g <f4> <f2> to access the customization buffer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔧 the pel-initial-goto-symbol-UI user option. Select one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 = Use Emacs default: imenu 1 = Use Ido. 📦 Requires idomenu 🔧 pel-use-ido and pel-use-idomenu must both be turned on. 2 = Use Ivy. 📦 Requires ivy mode and ivy mode completion with Counsel mode 🔧 pel-use-ivy and pel-use-counsel must both be on. 3 = Use helm. 📦 Requires Helm mode 🔧 pel-use-helm must be turned on. 4 = Use popup-imenu. 📦 Requires popup-imenu 🔧 pel-use-popup-imenu to be turned on (in pel-pkg-for-imenu group). 5 = Use popup-switcher. 📦 Requires popup-switcher 🔧 pel-use-popup-switcher to be turned on (in pel-pkg-for-imenu group). Modify the pel-goto-symbol UI for the current editing session with the pel-select-goto-symbol-UI command, bound to M-g <f4> h. Customize pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer user interface with with M-g <f4> <f2> to access the customization buffer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔧📦 Requires imenu-anywhere 🔧 pel-use-imenu-anywhere user option must be set to one of the following values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use emacs-default: basic Emacs completion. Use tab to see possible matches. Use Ido. 🔧 pel-use-ido must be turned on. Use Ivy. 📦 Requires ivy mode 🔧 pel-use-ivy must be on. Use helm. 📦 Requires Helm mode 🔧 pel-use-helm must be turned on. Modify pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer UI for the current editing session with the pel-select-goto-symbol-any-buffer-UI command, bound to M-g <f4> y. Use pel-show-goto-symbol-settings , bound to M-g ? to show the current settings for both commands. When using Ido, for you have more options: you can select a different Ido prompt geometry and whether it uses ‘fix’ fuzzy matching. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ido prompt geometries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Emacs default: Ido linear selection, Grid initially collapsed or expanded. 📦 Requires ido-grid-mode 🔧 Activate it with pel-use-ido-grid-mode user-option turned on. Vertical list. 📦 Requires ido-vertical-mode 🔧 Activate it with pel-use-ido-vertical-mode user-option turned on. Select the initial geometry with the pel-initial-ido-geometry. Change it in the editing session with pel-select-ido-geometry (M-g <f4> M-g). Ido ‘fix’ fuzzy matching 📦 requires flx-ido. 🔧 Activate it with pel-use-flx user-option turned on. Also use <f11> <f10> <f2> to customize the PEL iMenu user-options which have an impact on the way the iMenu entries are displayed. 🍌 Note that it is also possible to use the Speedbar (which also uses the symbols detected by imenu). See 🔗 Speedbar . 		
Find definitions using IMenu See also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔗 Completion/Input 🔗 Navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ <f11> <f10> i ⌨️ M-g i ⌨️ M-g M-i 	(imenu INDEX-ITEM)	Lists imenu-detected items from the current buffer (according to its major mode). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, in a elisp file, the entry points are the function definitions and may include the variables and other items depending what function does the parsing (it can be semantic which provides more information). Provides one of the following interfaces to let user select entry to jump to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The default: input completion, using the minibuffer window and tab completion. a pop-up window : available in Graphics mode selected by mouse or in both graphics and terminal (TTY) modes when the imenu-use-popup-menu user-option is turned on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with PEL you can use pel-imenu-toggle-popup (bound to M-g <f4> p) to toggle the user interface used by imenu.
Move point to imenu detected symbol definition in current buffer ★★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌨️ M-g h ⌨️ M-g M-h 	(pel-goto-symbol)	Prompt using for imenu symbol of the current buffer and move point to it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh imenu and jump to a place in the buffer using the completion method selected. Modify user interface currently used with M-g <f4> h. The command sets a ref-marker before moving. Return to previous location by typing M-,

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Move point to imenu detected symbol definition of all opened buffers ★ ★	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M-g y M-g M-y 	(pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer)	Prompt using for imenu symbol of all loaded menu supported buffers and move point to the selection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide input completion using the currently selected method (emacs-default, ido, ivy or helm). Select the default completion method by customization setting pel-use-imenu-anywhere. Modify user interface currently used with M-g <f4> y. The command sets a ref-marker before moving. Return to previous location by typing M- ,
Display current setting of commands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pel-goto-symbol pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer 	M-g ?	(pel-show-goto-symbol-settings)	Display current settings used by the goto symbol commands in the echo area. Something like this: <pre>goto-symbol UI is: popup-switcher goto-any-buffer UI is: Ido - iMenu lists are not flatten. - Ido uses: - Ido prompt geometry: grid mode, starts collapsed: expand with tab - Ido Ubiquitous mode: off - flx-ido mode: off</pre>
Select Input Completion used by pel-goto-symbol	M-g <f4> h	(pel-select-goto-symbol-UI)	Select the input completion method used by the pel-goto-symbol command for the duration of the current editing session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Emacs starts the method used is determined by the value of the pel-initial-goto-symbol-UI user-option. You can use this command to change what is used in the current editing session without affecting the customized default. See also the commands to control input completion (see ℹ Completion/Input) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pel-select-ido-geometry: M-g <f4> M-g pel-ido-ubiquitous : M-g <f4> M-u pel-flx-ido : M-g <f4> M-f
Select Input Completion Method used by pel-imenu-anywhere	M-g <f4> y	(pel-select-goto-symbol-any-buffer-UI)	Select the input completion method used by the pel-imenu-anywhere command for the duration of the current editing session and used by the pel-goto-symbol-any-buffer command. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Emacs starts the method used is determined by the value of the PEL pel-use-imenu-anywhere user-option. You can use this command to change what is used in the current editing session without affecting the customized default.
Emacs Buffer Menu	The list of buffers is available via the Buffer popup-menu. It's also available via the buffer commands (see the Buffers table).		
Open buffer menu See also: ℹ Buffers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-<f10> C-<down-mouse-1> 	(buffer-menu-open)	Start key navigation of the buffer menu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List buffers in a drop-down menu. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists the buffers by major-mode when several buffers of the same major-mode are opened. In graphics mode this can also be invoked using the C-<down-mouse-1>