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Important Emacs Customizable User Options

Customization Group	Category	User option variable name	Description	Set to:
	This table shows the recommended settings for some important Emacs user-options. See also the PEL **emacs-customization repo directory**; it contains several examples of customization files.			
Last updated on:	2025-10-29			
find-file	confirm action	**confirm-nonexistent-file-or-buffer**	Whether confirmation is requested before visiting a new file or buffer. Values can be: • nil: **never**: no confirmation • **after-completion**: confirmation only required if user called minibuffer-complete right before minibuffer-complete-and-exit • t: **always**: any other non-nil: always request confirmation	nil
convenience	confirm action	**confirm-kill-emacs**	How to ask for confirmation when leaving Emacs. • If nil, the default, don't ask at all. • If the value is non-nil, it should be a predicate function; for example 'yes-or-no-p'.	nil
convenience	confirm action	**confirm-kill-processes**	Non-nil if Emacs should confirm killing processes on exit. • If this variable is nil, the value of 'process-query-on-exit-flag' is ignored. • Otherwise, if there are processes with a non-nil 'process-query-on-exit-flag', Emacs will prompt the user before killing them.	t
fill • See: 𝕀 **Filling/ Justification**	line wrapping	**fill-column**	Column beyond which automatic line-wrapping should happen. Interactively, you can set the buffer local value using **`C-x f`**.	78
display	Mode line	**line-number-display-limit-width**	If you want to display the current line number in a buffer that holds a large number of lines, you will want to change the default value, 200, to something much larger unless your computer is very old and very slow. If the line number exceeds this number the line number shown on the mode line will show as **??**	200000
pel-base-emacs	prompt	**pel-prompt-accept-y-n**	When non-nil: accept 'y' or 'n' instead of 'yes' or 'no' as answers to prompts.	t

Automatic activation of Minor Modes in specified Major Modes	PEL provides 2 sets of user-options that allows you to specify automatic activation of minor modes for a given major mode.
	
	• The first set of user options are the **pel-**<*mode*>**-activates-minor-modes** user options that exist for the major modes explicitly supported by PEL.
	  • With those you can specify a list of minor modes you want to automatically activate for a major mode.
	  • For example, the **pel-rst-activates-minor-modes** user-option is a list of modes automatically activated for the rst-mode.«
	
	• The second set of user-options are the **pel-modes-activating-**<*package name*> user-options.
	  • With those you specify the major modes that activate a specific minor mode or mechanism controlled by PEL.
	  • For example, the **pel-modes-activating-auto-fill-mode** or **pel-modes-activating-whitespace-mode** user-option.
	  • These user options allow you to activate a minor mode in several major modes, even major modes not explicitly supported by PEL.
	
	These two sets may overlap. Identifying a mode to activate in am major mode inside the user-option of the first group and a user-option in the second group will not cause any problem; it's not the most efficient way to configure Emacs, but it will work.
	
	The two sets of user-options supported by PEL are listed below in alphabetical order.
	☝ Use the **`<f12> <f2>`** key to access the PEL customization of a specific major mode in a buffer of that major mode.			

Ⓜ **AsciiDoc**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-adoc-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for AsciiDoc buffers.	
𝔓 **- Arc**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-arc-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for arc buffers.	
Ⓢ ASN.1 **asn1-mode**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-asn1-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for asn1 buffers.	
𝔓 **- C++**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-c++-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for c++ buffers.	
𝔓 **- C**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-c-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for c buffers.	
𝔓 **- Chez**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-chez-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for chez buffers.	
𝔓 **- Chibi**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-chibi-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for chibi buffers.	
𝔓 **- Chicken**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-chicken-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for chicken buffers.	
𝔓 **- Clojure**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-clojure-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for clojure buffers.	
Ⓓ **CWL**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-cwl-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for cwl buffers.	
𝔓 **- D**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-d-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for d buffers.	
𝔓 **- Elixir**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-elixir-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for elixir buffers.	
𝕰𝔓 **- Emacs Lisp**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-elisp-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for emacs-lisp buffers.	
𝔓 **- Erlang**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-erlang-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for erlang buffers.	
𝔓 **- Forth**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-forth-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for forth buffers.	
𝔓 **- Gambit**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-gambit-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for gambit buffers.	
𝔓 **- Gerbil**	automatic activation of minor mode	**pel-gerbil-activates-minor-modes**	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for gerbil buffers.	

Customization Group	Category	User option variable name	Description	Set to:
𝔓ℓ - Gleam	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-gleam-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for gleam buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Go	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-go-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for go buffers.	
Ⓜ Graphviz Dot	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-graphviz-dot-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for graphviz-dot buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - GNU Guile	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-guile-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for guile buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Haskell	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-haskell-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for haskell buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Hy	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-hy-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for hy buffers.	
𝕀 Buffers	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-intel-hex-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for hex-mode buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Janet	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-janet-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for janet buffers.	
Javascript	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-javascript-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for javascript buffers.	
Javascript	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-js-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for js-mode buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Julia	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-julia-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for julia buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - LFE	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-inferior-lfe-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for lfe buffers.	
Common Lisp	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-lisp-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for lisp buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Make	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-makefile-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for makefile buffers.	
Ⓜ Markdown	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-markdown-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for markdown buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Scheme	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-mit-scheme-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for mit-scheme buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - NetRexx	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-netrexx-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for netrexx buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Nim	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-nim-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for nim buffers.	
Nix	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-nix-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for nix buffers. 📦 Requires nix-mode external package ☑ activated when pel-use-nix user-option is tuned on.	
Ⓜ Org-Mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-org-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for org-mode buffers.	
𝕀 Outline	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-outline-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for outline-mode buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Perl	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-perl-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for perl buffers.	
Ⓜ PlantUML	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-plantuml-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for plant-uml buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Python	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-python-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for python buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Racket	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-racket-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for racket buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - REXX	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-rexx-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for rexx buffers.	
Ⓜ reStructuredText	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-rst-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for rst buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Ruby	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-ruby-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for ruby buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Rust	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-rust-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for rust buffers.	
𝔓ℓ - Scheme	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-scheme-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for scheme buffers.	

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𝔓 - Scheme	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-scsh-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for scsh buffers.	
𝔓 - UNIX Shell	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-sh-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for sh buffers.	
𝕾 Shells,	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-shell-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for shell buffers.	
𝕾 Shells,	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-term-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for term buffers.	
𝔓 - OCaml	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-tuareg-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for tuareg-mode buffers.	
Tup	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-tup-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for tup buffers. 📦 Requires tup-mode external package 🏄 activated when **pel-use-tup** user-option is tuned on.	
𝔓 - V	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-v-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for v buffers.	
Ⓓ YAML	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-yaml-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for yaml buffers.	
Ⓢ YANG	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-yang-activates-minor-modes	List of *local* minor-modes automatically activated for yang buffers.	
pel-pkg-for-expand	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-abbrev-mode See 𝕾 Abbreviations	List of major modes that automatically activate abbrev-mode. This can be quite useful in several modes, including: • rst-mode • log-edit-mode • vc-git-log-edit-mode • emacs-lisp-mode	
pel-pkg-for-align	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-align-on-return See 𝕾 Align	List of major modes that automatically activate alignment on **M-RET**. • For these modes the buffer local variable '**pel-newline-does-align**' is automatically set to **t**. This activates the automatic alignment of contiguous lines when the function '**pel-newline-and-indent-below'** executes. • The alignment is controlled by a set of regular-expression based rules stored in the variable 'align-rules-list'. • These rules support the alignment of C and Python assignment statements, where the alignment is done on the equal sign character. Also for C++ "//" style comments. See 'align-rules-list'. By default PEL does not activate it on any mode. To activate a mode, add the mode name in the list. • For example, to activate it for C, add the c-mode symbol to the list.	
pel-pkg-for-text-mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-auto-fill-mode See 𝕾 Text Modes	Identify the major mode(s) where you want to automatically activate the fill-mode, a buffer-local minor mode that automatically wraps text.	• emacs-lisp-mode
pel-pkg-for-xref	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-cscope See 𝕾 Xref	List of major modes that automatically activate cscope-minor-mode. • The CScope minor mode only supports the following major modes, so only put the following in the list: • c-mode • c-mode-common • c++-mode • dired-mode	
pel-pkg-for-xref	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-dumb-jump See 𝕾 Xref	List of major modes that automatically activate dumb-jump. • Note that you can also toggle dumb-jump for a major mode by using the function 'pel-xref-toggle-dumb-jump-mode' which is bound to <f11> X B D, regardless of the initial state.	
pel-pkg-for-regexp	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-easy-escape See: 𝕾 Search/Replace	List of major modes that automatically activate easy-escape minor mode. • Prime candidates for this would be the following: • 'prog-mode : to activate it on all programming language modes, • 'emacs-lisp-mode : to activate for Emacs Lisp code, • 'lisp-mode : to activate for Lisp mode. The minor mode can also be activated manually using the command 'easy-escape-minor-mode'.	
pel-pkg-for-text-mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-electric-quote-local-mode See 𝕾 Text Modes	List of major modes that automatically activate the 'electric-quote-local-mode'	
pel-pkg-for-spelling	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-flyspell-mode See 𝕾 Spell Checking	List of major modes that automatically activate the 'flyspell-mode'	
pel-pkg-for-spelling	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-flyspell-prog-mode See 𝕾 Spell Checking	List of major modes that automatically activate the 'flyspell-prog-mode'	
pel-pkg-for-xref	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-ggtags See 𝕾 Xref	List of major modes that automatically activate ggtags-mode. • The function '**ggtags-mode**' is a cross referencing mode using the GNU Global tag system, one of the ctags-type cross referencing systems supported by Emacs. • Note: Automatic loading of **ggtags-mode** will incur processing time and will mask the **M-=** key binding of er/expand-region (but the **<f11> . =** binding remains available). As an alternative you can quickly toggle ggtags-mode with the **<f11> X B G** key sequence.	
pel-pkg-for-text-mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-glasses-mode See 𝕾 Text Modes	List of major modes that automatically activate the 'glasses-mode'	
pel-pkg-for-xref	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-gxref See 𝕾 Xref	List of major modes that automatically activate gxref-mode. • The gxref package is a xref backend using GNU GLOBAL cross referencing system. As an alternative you can quickly toggle the use of gxref xref backend with gxref-mode with the **<f11> X B g** key sequence	

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pel-pkg-for-xref	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-helm-cscope See Σ Xref	List of major modes that automatically activate helm-cscope mode. CScope minor mode only supports the following major modes, so only put the following in the list: • c-mode • c-mode-common • c++-mode • dired-mode	
pel-pkg-for-lisp	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-lispy See Ψ- Lispy	List of major modes that automatically activate 'lispy-mode'. The lispy mode is a powerful editing mode for Lisp programming languages. • You can enable it for the major modes listed in the user-option variable 'pel-allowed-modes-for-lispy'. PEL will ignore other modes.	
• pel-pkg-for-text-mode • pel-pkg-for-insertions	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-smart-dash-mode See Σ Text Modes	List of major modes that automatically activate the smart dash mode. • Use this only when the major mode is not supported by PEL. For modes supported by PEL use the appropriate pel-<mode>-activates-minor-modes user-option instead. • Used when '**pel-use-smart-dash**' user option is t	
pel-pkg-for-text-mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-subword-mode	List of major modes that automatically activate the 'subword-mode'	
pel-pkg-for-text-mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-superword-mode See Σ Text Modes	List of major modes that automatically activate the 'superword-mode'	
pel-base-emacs	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-syntax-check See Σ SyntaxCheck for more information	List of major modes that automatically activate their syntax checker. PEL controls what syntax checker is used for each major mode. This includes flymake and flycheck and if others exist they will also be added to the support. A user may want to use flymake with one language and flycheck with another. PEL supports that. By default PEL does not activate a syntax checker when the file is opened, allowing Emacs to run a little faster. PEL provides a command (bound to the `<f11> !!` key sequence) globally and specialized for some major mode, to toggle the syntax checker on or off. If you prefer to activate a syntax checker for a specific major mode right when the file is opened, add the name of the major mode to this list. PEL will then activate the syntax checker right when the file is opened. Each entry must be the symbol name of a major mode. For example, to activate it in Erlang, add a line with 'erlang-mode' without the quotes.	
pel-pkg-for-text-mode	automatic activation of minor mode	pel-modes-activating-whitespace-mode See Σ Text Modes	Identify the major mode(s) where you want to automatically activate the whitespace-mode, a buffer-local minor mode that highlights space characters, hard tabs and trailing spaces at end of lines. • Adding **diff-mode** to this list ensures that the diff buffers show the trailing spaces or space to hard tab differences between files.	• diff-mode