

Sorting

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
Sorting Text <div> Last updated on: 2025-11-25 </div>			Emacs definition of a paragraph is held in the paragraph-start and paragraph-separate variables. And the sorting case sensitivity depends on the sort-fold-case variable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To see the current status of these variables (and others) you can execute the <code>pel-show-text-modes</code> command. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This command is bound to the <code><f11> t m ?</code> key sequence. See Text Modes
Open this PDF file. See also: Help/Info	<code><f11> o <f1></code>	<code>(pel-help-pdf &optional OPEN-WEB-PAGE)</code>	Open the Sorting local PDF. If the prefix argument (like <code>C-u</code> or <code>M--</code>) is used, then it opens the remote GitHub hosted raw PDF instead. If the <code>pel-flip-help-pdf-arg</code> user-option is set it's the other way around.
Sort lines	<code><f11> o l</code>	<code>(sort-lines REVERSE BEG END)</code>	Sort lines in region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With <code>C-u</code> reverse order.
Sort paragraphs	<code><f11> o p</code>	<code>(sort-paragraphs REVERSE BEG END)</code>	Sort by the text of each paragraph. With <code>C-u</code> reverse order. The following variables control what are paragraphs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> paragraph-start paragraph-separate
Sort pages	<code><f11> o /</code>	<code>(sort-pages REVERSE BEG END)</code>	Sort by the text of each page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With <code>C-u</code> reverse order.
Sort lines by fields	<code><f11> o ,</code>	<code>(sort-fields FIELD BEG END)</code>	Sort lines by one of their fields. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fields are whitespace-separated. First field is field 1. Numeric argument: identifies field # (default := 1) Negative argument: field -1 := last field, etc... To reverse order use reverse-region.
Sort lines by numeric fields	<code><f11> o n</code>	<code>(sort-numeric-fields FIELD BEG END)</code>	Sort lines by one of their number fields. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fields are whitespace separated, but start with a number. Hex numbers start with 0x. Octal start by 0. Field selection is done by the numeric argument as for sort-fields. To reverse order use reverse-region. To use different base for numbers: see variable: sort-numeric-base
Sort lines by columns	<code><f11> o c</code>	<code>(sort-columns REVERSE &optional BEG END)</code>	Put point and mark to form a rectangle identifying the first line/column and the last line/column to consider for the sort. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With <code>C-u</code> reverse order.
Reverse the order of lines in the region	<code><f11> o r</code>	<code>(reverse-region BEG END)</code>	Reverse the order of lines in the region. Useful for reversing the order after a sort-fields or sort-numeric-fields.
Sort records by regular expression	<code><f11> o x</code>	<code>(sort-regexp-fields REVERSE RECORD-REGEXP KEY-REGEXP BEG END)</code>	Prompt for a regexp that identifies what a record is, and the key within the record. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more info see: Sorting By Regular Expression
Toggle sort case sensitivity	<code><f11> o F</code>	<code>(pel-toggle-sort-fold-case)</code>	By default sort is case sensitive. Toggle to case insensitive and back.

Sorting — References

Topic & Link	Extra Notes
GNU Emacs - Sorting Text	
GNU Emacs Lisp - Sorting Text	
Sorting By Regular Expression	Quick intro by Mickey Petersen. Good example on sort-regexp-fields