## **Spell Checking**

| Spell Checking  |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Description  Chapking in  | Keystroke  Emacs support spe   | Function  If checking inside text files but a                    | Note  Note  Note  |  |
| Spell Checking in<br>Emacs  | Emacs support spell checking inside text files but also inside source code comments and source code docstrings!  Two main modes of operation are supported:  ispell: a mode where you request an explicit spell-check verification of a word or an area of the current buffer.  flyspell: an active mode that runs in the background and detects spelling error on the fly, highlighting errors. There is also a program-mode flyspell which activates automatic spell check of source code comments and docstrings.   |  |   |  |
|   | Spell checking is not performed by Emacs itself; Emacs uses an external process for that. On Unix-like system it's either aspell or ispell; aspell is preferred because it is faster and is more modern. The ispell process is not able to handle UTF-8 documents, but the aspell process does. These programs are not bundled with Emacs; you may have to install these programs independently.   |  |   |  |
| Open this PDF file.<br>See also: <u>▼ Help/Info</u>               | <f11> \$ <f1></f1></f11>   | (pel-help-pdf &optional OPEN-WEB-PAGE)                           | Open the <u>Spell Checking</u> local PDF. If the prefix argument (like <b>C-u</b> or <b>M</b> ) is used, then it opens the remote GitHub hosted raw PDF instead. If the <b>pel-flip-help-pdf-arg</b> user-option is set it's the other way around.  |  |
| <u>∑ Customize</u> PEL spell checking control                     | <f11> \$ <f2></f2></f11>   | (pel-customize-pel<br>&optional OTHER-WINDOW)                    | Customize PEL support for: spell checking. Identify which major modes will automatically activate either flyspell-mode or flyspell-prog-mode.  • If OTHER-WINDOW is non-nil (use <b>C-u</b> ), display in other window.   |  |
| <u>National Education Customize</u> Emacs spell checking control  | <f11> \$ <f3></f3></f11>   | (pel-customize-library<br>&optional OTHER-WINDOW)                | Customize Emacs spelling support. Opens the following customization groups: ispell, flyspell.   |  |
| <u>Using Ispell</u>   | Once Ispell (or Flyspell) is activated the Ispell commands are available. If Flyspell mode is active the following 2 key bindings are instead bound to the Flyspell functions (see the section below on how to activate Flyspell). But even then all other ispell commands are available.  |  |   |  |
| Select Spell checking program                                     | To use Ispell and Flyspell you must identify the spell checker program used by Emacs.  The program must be a Ispell-compatible program, something like ispell, aspell, hunspell, or enchant.  If the program you want to use is not on your computer you will have to install it separately.  Emacs Configuration of spell checking  Without PEL:  you would normally have to specify the directory where the program is found in SPELL-PATH when that program is not already found in the 'execpath'.  To be used, the value must be a string.  If no path is needed use nil.  Any other type raises an error.  Optionally identify the PERSONAL-DICTIONARY to use.  When using PEL:  When using PEL:   |  |   |  |
| See also: <u>S Customize</u>                                      | <ul> <li>With PEL you control the selection of the spell checking program via the pel-spell-check-tool user options.</li> <li>Set the name of the spell checker program and the path of your personal dictionary in pel-spell-check-personal-dictionary.</li> <li>For the changes to take effect, save the changes and execute pel-init (with M-x pel-init) or restart Emacs.</li> <li>PEL updates Emacs exec-path if the program is not already accessible through it.</li> <li>Use <f11> \$ <f2> key sequence to gain access to the pel-pkg-for-spelling customization group. Use <f11> \$ <f3> to open the customization buffer of Ispell and Flyspell.</f3></f11></f2></f11></li> <li>PEL activates flyspell-mode and fix issues in terminal mode. When running in terminal mode, the function modifies 'flyspell-emacs-popup' with 'pel-spell-flyspell-emacs-popup-textual' to allow the flyspell pop-up menu to work in terminal mode.</li> <li>If you are writing in multiple natural languages (and multiple dictionaries), you may want to override your default spell checking defaults by setting the pel-spell-check-tool as a file or directory local value.</li> </ul>   |  |   |  |
| Ispell - complete a word  | • M- <tab> • C-M-i • C</tab>   | (ispell-complete-word<br>&optional INTERIOR-FRAG)                | Try to complete the word before or at point.  If optional INTERIOR-FRAG is non-nil, then the word may be a character sequence inside of a word.  Standard ispell choices are then available.  Notes:  1. this also works in Org-Mode, even though the binding is not available.  2. If flyspell is activated, the keys are bound to flyspell-auto-correct-word (see below). |  |
| Ispell - Check a single word                                      | M-\$   | (ispell-word &optional<br>FOLLOWING QUIETLY<br>CONTINUE REGION)  | Check spelling of word under or before the cursor.  Several options are available at that moment: see the following " <b>Ispell operation</b> " lines below for the single line command that can then be used. A list of replacement is shown in a buffer. Use the letter <b>i</b> to include the word into the dictionary.   |  |
| Fix spelling mistake before                                       | • <f11> a \$</f11>   | (pel-ispell-word-then-   | Fix spelling mistake in text before point.  |  |
| <ul> <li>Add old-&gt;new in the<br/>abbreviation table</li> </ul> | • <f11> M-\$</f11>   | abbrev &optional LOCALLY)  | <ul> <li>Create an 'abbrev' abbreviation for it.</li> <li>Store the abbreviation globally unless the LOCALLY argument is non-nil, in which case store it in the local abbreviation list.</li> <li>If there's nothing wrong with the word at point, keep looking for a typo until the beginning of buffer.</li> </ul>  |  |
| See also: <u>Nabbreviations</u>                                   |  |  | You can skip typos you don't want to fix with 'SPC', and you can abort completely with 'C-g'.   |  |
| Interactive spell checking  | S A similar operation is possible with flyspell. See flyspell-auto-correct-word.  The following commands perform interactive spell checking. The commands spell check a portion of text and stops at the first misspelled word, opening a "Choices" buffer to prompt for replacement. Your response can be one of several characters, described in the row below. The related  |  |   |  |
| Ispell *Choices* buffer keys                                      | commands are shown in the following rows.  |  |   |  |
| Response characters.  | <ul> <li>! Ispell prints more options in the minibuffer. These extra options are over the correction characters shown in "Choices": Replace the word with the one identified by the choice digit.</li> <li>i : insert the "misspelled" word inside the private dictionary file located in ~/.ispell_<language></language></li> <li>m : same as i but you can also specify dictionary completion information.</li> <li>look in the dictionary for words that match word. These words become the new list of replacement proposals. You can use "i in word as wildcards.</li> <li>u : uncapitalized the "misspelled" word inside the private dictionary file located in ~/.ispell_<language></language></li> <li>r : prompt for the correct spelling, replace this instance (the replacement string is then accepted later in the text)</li> <li>R : query replace in buffer</li> <li><space></space></li> <li>i do not replace, skip</li> <li>a : accept word, treat it as correct; do not replace, skip over this word now and later in all buffer for this session</li> <li>A : accept word, treat it as correct; do not replace, skip over this word now and after in this buffer only for this session.</li> <li>x : quit interactive spell-checking, leaving point at the word that was being checked. Resume checking afterward with C-u M-\$.</li> <li>x : quit interactive spell-checking and move point back to where it was when you started spell-checking.</li> <li>q : quit interactive spell-checking and kill the Ispell process.</li> <li>C-q : Stop Ispell. When this is used, it is possible to resume Ispell later with C-u M-\$ or via the menu.</li> </ul> |  |   |  |
| Ispell - spell check buffer or region                             | <f11> \$ .</f11>   | (ispell)   | Interactively check a region or buffer for spelling errors.  • If 'transient-mark-mode' is on, and a region is active, spell-check that region. Otherwise spell-check the buffer.   |  |
| Ispell - spell check buffer                                       | <f11> \$ b</f11>   | (ispell-buffer)  | Check the current buffer for spelling errors interactively. Disregard presence of region.   |  |
| Ispell - spell-check region                                       | <f11> \$ r</f11>   | (ispell-region REG-START<br>REG-END &optional<br>RECHECKP SHIFT) | Interactively check a region for spelling errors.   |  |
| <u>lspell - spell-check email</u><br><u>body</u>                  | <f11> \$ m</f11>   | (ispell-message)   | Check the spelling of a mail message or news post.  Don't check spelling of message headers except the Subject field.  Don't check included messages.  To abort spell checking of a message region and send the message anyway, use the 'x' command. (Any subsequent regions will be checked.)  The 'X' command aborts sending the message so that you can edit the buffer. |  |
| Ispell - spell-check<br>comment and strings                       | <f11> \$ ;</f11>   | (ispell-comments-and-<br>strings)                                | Check comments and strings in the current buffer for spelling errors.   |  |

| <u>Description</u>                                   | <u>Keystroke</u>  | Function   | Note Note  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Ispell - continue spell checking                     | C-u M-\$  | (ispell-continue)  | Continue a halted spelling session beginning with the current word.  |  |
| Ispell Process Control                               |   |  |  |  |
| Ispell - kill the ispell process                     | <f11> \$ K</f11>  | (ispell-kill-ispell &optional<br>NO-ERROR CLEAR)   | Kill current Ispell process (so that you may start a fresh one).  The spell check program runs as a background task connected via a pipe. It's not taking much CPU when no spelling is done, so it's normally not necessary to kill it; you can leave it running. However, it may become necessary to kill it when you want to change the dictionary or want to reduce the overhead.   |  |
| Change Language<br>Dictionary                        | <f11> \$ D</f11>  | (ispell-change-dictionary<br>DICT &optional ARG)   | Change to dictionary DICT for ispell/aspell.  • With a prefix arg, set it "globally", for all buffers.  • Without a prefix arg, set it "locally", just for this buffer.  Solution Prompts supports completion: by just answering RET you can find out what the current dictionary is.  |  |
| Activating Flyspell                                  | Flyspell can be acti installed. Flyspell p  | rocesses text continuously, just ivate Flyspell mode for text buffe  | ispell, even though several of the ispell customizations also affect Flyspell. However ispell must be like a word processor, and it highlight misspelled words.  ers and Flyspell Prog mode for programming language buffers with hooks using the following code:  |  |
| See also: <u>See customize</u>                       | (add-hook 'text-mode-hook 'flyspell-mode) (add-hook 'prog-mode-hook 'flyspell-prog-mode)  PEL provides 2 user options that identify the modes where flyspell-mode and flyspell-prog-mode are automatically activated:  pel-modes-activating-flyspell-mode and pel-modes-activating-flyspell-prog-mode.  PEL code comes with defaults, activating flyspell and flyspell-prog modes for several major modes. Use <f11> \$ <f2> to quickly op  PEL Spelling customization group to configure these 2 user options to add or remove groups. Then 'Apply and Save' and restart Emacs changes to take effect.</f2></f11>    |  |  |  |
|  | The spell check command bindings are only available when Flyspell (or ispell) mode is active.  A 3-button mouse is needed for Flyspell to access the pop-up menu of provided replacements suggestions, and the pop-ip menu does not work in terminal mode, unless code is used to fix this problem. Example of this code is shown in the FlySpell page of EmacsWiki. The PEL package incorporates that code and activates it in terminal mode using the following code:  (when (not (display-graphic-p)) (eval-after-load "flyspell"  '(progn (fset 'flyspell-emacs-popup 'pel-spell-flyspell-emacs-popup-textual)))) |  |  |  |
| Enter/Leave Flyspell mode                            | <f11> \$ F</f11>  | (flyspell-mode &optional ARG)  | Toggles the use of Flyspell mode.  |  |
|  |   | Mode line shows "Fly" wher Flyspell mode works like wo Use Flyspell Prog mode for With a prefix argument ARG Flyspell mode is a buffer-loc default flyspell behavior is to If a hook already activate F  | ord processors; misspelled words are highlighted. code; Flyspell processes all text. i, enable Flyspell mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise. cal minor mode. When enabled, it spawns a single ispell/aspell process and checks each word. The o highlight incorrect words.  Ilyspell you probably won't need this command unless you want to disable it. If you do that in a   |  |
| Enter Flyspell Prog mode                             | <f11> \$ p</f11>  | (flyspell-prog-mode)   | Turn on Flyspell prog mode: turn on Flyspell but restricts it to comments and strings, do not spell check source code itself. Highlight misspellings only in comments or strings.  If a hook activates Flyspell Prog mode, you won't need this command.  Note that the command always enables the mode, it does not toggle it. If you want to turn spell checking off, you must use the flyspell-mode command. To re-enable Flyspell Prog mode you then use this one.  |  |
| Using Flyspell                                       | With Flyspell mode  | activated, the following key bine  | dings are active and can be used to fix spelling of misspelled or incomplete words.  |  |
| Auto correct previous word See Also: <u>∑ Cursor</u> | • C-;<br>• <f11> \</f11>  | (flyspell-auto-correct-<br>previous-word POSITION)   | Auto correct the first misspelled word that occurs before point.  Both iEdit and Flyspell use the C-; key as their default binding. PEL detects and reports that situation. If you see this warning modify the binding of one of the two user options.   |  |
| Flyspell - complete a word                           | • M- <tab> • C-M-i • C</tab>  | (flyspell-auto-correct-word)   | Correct the current word in place.  • This command proposes various successive corrections for the current word. If invoked repeatedly on the same position, it cycles through the possible corrections of the current word.  • In most cases this is much faster than using M-\$ which always proposes choices.  • If you want to include flyspell corrections inside the abbreviation table to automatically correct future typos you can modify the following flyspell user-options:  • flyspell-abbrev-p: set it to t to automatically store flyspell corrections in local abbrev table.  • flyspell-use-global-abbrev-table-p: set it to t to have it store in the global abbrev table instead. |  |
| Ispell - Check a single word                         | M-\$  | (ispell-word & optional FOLLOWING QUIETLY CONTINUE REGION)   | Check spelling of word under or before the cursor.  Opens a *Choices* buffer showing all available corrections/suggestions, similar to the way ispell does it.  Several options are available at that moment: see the following "Ispell operation" lines in the above table for the single line commands that can then be used.  |  |
| Flyspell - correct word                              | • C-c \$<br>• <u>4r</u>   | (flyspell-correct-word-<br>before-point &optional<br>EVENT OPOINT)   | Pop up a menu of possible corrections for misspelled word before point.  ▶ with PEL, the 4r key-chord is also available when key-chord is available and active. See ★ Key-Chords.  • ⚠ To activate this in terminal mode you must write some code. See the note in the "Activating Flyspell" row above.  • ⚠ fci-mode interferes with pop-up menu displays in terminal-mode, at least with the one used  |  |
| See also: <u>∑Highlight</u> Using Flyspell when      | The following comm  | nand can be used even when Fl  | by <b>flyspell-correct-word-before-point:</b> the menu lines become all jagged, they do not line up vertically. The problem does not affect Emacs running in graphics mode.  |  |
| not activated  | January Contin  | and the second s |  |  |
| Check all text in buffer                             |   | (flyspell-buffer)  | Flyspell whole buffer.  • This command is marginally useful. You can use it when Flyspell mode is not active to highlight misspelled words in the buffer. Since the other Flyspell commands bindings are not available you have to fix spelling of the words manually and re-run the command. A better way is to simply activate Flyspell and use the commands.  To use this command, type: M-x flyspell-buffer  |  |
| Querying Information                                 | The following comr  | nands print status information in  | nside the mini-buffer about the spell check programs being used.   |  |
| Ispell - check version                               | <f11> \$ v</f11>  | (ispell-check-version<br>&optional INTERACTIVEP)   | Display Ispell process version as well as the version of ispell.el   |  |
| Show information about used spell program            | <f11> \$ ?</f11>  | (pel-spell-show-use)   | Display what spell checking program is being used, its version, the status of the spell modes and the dictionary used.   |  |

## Spell Checking - References

| Topic & link   | Description                   |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Make ispell automatically clear minibuffer when replacing word |                               |
| How can I change the language in Emacs when using ispell?      |                               |
|  |                               |
| Enabling spell-checking in comments                            |                               |
| in Emacs flyspell-mode, how to add new word to dictionary?     |                               |
| Aspell Windows @ EmacsWiki                                     | In Setup for 64-bit Windows 7 |
| GNU Aspell (Win32 version)                                     |                               |