

# Filling and Justification

| Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Keystroke                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Function                                                                     | Note                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Filling, Justification, Position (and navigation) Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Under some conditions, and for editing some type of files, it may be useful to see the horizontal ruler above the window of a buffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The ruler-mode provides this functionality.</li><li>You can also use a vertical line highlighting a specific column: see <a href="#">§ Highlight</a></li></ul> <p>Emacs filling uses several variables identifying the column where text must wrap. The main variable is the <i>‘fill-column’</i> variable. But it’s not the only one. For buffer used to show and edit Lisp or Emacs Lisp code, the emacs-lisp-docstring-fill-column controls text wrapping inside Lisp docstrings. The values of the relevant fill wrapping controlling column is shown by the <b>pel-show-fill-column</b> command, shown below.</p> |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Show the ruler                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <f11> b -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | (ruler-mode &optional ARG)                                                   | <p>Toggle display of ruler in header line (Ruler mode) in window(s) of current buffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>With a prefix argument ARG, enable Ruler mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise.</li></ul> <p>The ruler markers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>  Current cursor position</li><li>! Marks every 5 positions.</li><li># Current <i>comment-column</i> value, set by <b>C-x</b> ; It controls where the cursor goes when creating a new comment on a line.</li><li>¶ Current <i>fill-column</i> value, set by <b>C-x f</b>, controls where the cursor wraps.</li><li>G Current <i>goal-column</i> value, controlled by <b>C-x C-n</b>. The horizontal position when going up and down lines via <b>C-p</b> and <b>C-n</b>. If nil, its G symbol will not show on the ruler and it will not have any impact on the navigation commands. See the information about the <a href="#">set-goal-column command</a> in the navigation table.</li></ul> |
| Show the values of the fill columns                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <f11> t f ?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (pel-show-fill-columns)                                                      | <p>Display value of relevant fill columns for current buffer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>These are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>fill-column</li><li>comment-fill-column</li><li>emacs-lisp-docstring-fill-column (in a lisp related mode)</li></ul></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Filling Text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>For fill and refill mode to work properly on text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sentences must be separated by <b>2</b> spaces (unless <i>sentence-end-double-space</i> is t): use <b>&lt;f11&gt; t m s</b> to change this.</li><li>Paragraphs must be separated by 1 empty line.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Toggle end of sentence space count                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <f11> t m s                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (pel-toggle-sentence-end)                                                    | <p>Toggle the value of sentence-end-double-space variable to change the number of required spaces after a period to identify at the end of a sentence in text: from 2 (the default) to 1 and vice-versa.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Set Fill Column                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>C-x f</b></li><li><b>&lt;f11&gt; t f c</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | (set-fill-column ARG)                                                        | <p>When no prefix value: prompts for column.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If with <b>C-u</b> prefix: use current column.</li><li>If with prefix value: use that value.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Toggle auto-fill mode                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>&lt;f11&gt; t f a</b></li><li><b>&lt;f11&gt; &lt;RET&gt;</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (auto-fill-mode &optional ARG)                                               | <p>Toggle automatic line breaking (Auto Fill mode).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>With a prefix argument, enable Auto Fill mode if the prefix argument is positive, and disable it otherwise.</li><li>When Auto Fill mode is enabled, inserting a space at a column beyond ‘current-fill-column’ automatically breaks the line at a previous space.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Toggle auto fill inside comments only                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <f11> t f ;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (pel-auto-fill-only-comments)                                                | <p>Toggle the <b>comment-auto-fill-only-comments</b> variable to control whether filling is done everywhere or only inside the comments.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Togge refill mode                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <f11> t f f                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (refill-mode &optional ARG)                                                  | <p>Toggle automatic refilling (Refill mode).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>With a prefix argument ARG, enable Refill mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise.</li><li>Refill mode is a buffer-local minor mode. When enabled, the current paragraph is refilled as you edit. Self-inserting characters only cause refilling if they would cause auto-filling.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Set fill prefix                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>C-x .</b></li><li><b>&lt;f11&gt; t f .</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | (set-fill-prefix)                                                            | <p>Set the fill prefix to the current line up to point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Filling expects lines to start with the fill prefix and reinserts the fill prefix in each resulting line.</li><li>The fill prefix is then inserted before any character typed in the line.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Fill Lisp code section                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <f11> t f l                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (lisp-fill-paragraph &optional JUSTIFY)                                      | <p>Like M-q, but handle Emacs Lisp comments and docstrings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If any of the current line is a comment, fill the comment or the paragraph of it that point is in, preserving the comment’s indentation and initial semicolons.</li><li>Temporarily binds ‘fill-column’ to ‘emacs-lisp-docstring-fill-column’ which is used to identify the fill column for Emacs Lisp docstring.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Fill region                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <f11> t f r                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (fill-region FROM TO &optional JUSTIFY NOSQUEEZE TO-EOP)                     | <p>Fill each of the paragraphs in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A prefix arg means justify as well.</li><li>The ‘fill-column’ variable controls the width.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Fill region as one paragraph                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <f11> t f q                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (fill-region-as-paragraph FROM TO &optional JUSTIFY NOSQUEEZE SQUEEZE-AFTER) | <p>Fill the region as one paragraph.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It removes any paragraph breaks in the region and extra newlines at the end, indents and fills lines between the margins given by the ‘current-left-margin’ and ‘current-fill-column’ functions.</li><li>In most cases, the variable ‘fill-column’ controls the width.</li><li>It leaves point at the beginning of the line following the paragraph.</li><li>Normally performs justification according to the ‘current-justification’ function, but with a prefix arg, does full justification instead.</li><li>If ‘sentence-end-double-space’ is non-nil, then period followed by one space does not end a sentence, so don’t break a line there. You can change this using the (pel-toggle-sentence-end) bound to <b>&lt;f11&gt; t m s</b>.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Fill current paragraph<br>See also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">M reStructuredText</a></li><li><a href="#">¶L - C</a></li><li><a href="#">¶L - C++</a></li><li><a href="#">¶L - D</a></li><li><a href="#">¶¶L - Emacs Lisp</a></li><li><a href="#">¶L - Common Lisp</a></li><li><a href="#">¶L - Erlang</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>M-q</b></li><li><b>&lt;f11&gt; t f p</b></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (fill-paragraph &optional JUSTIFY REGION)                                    | <p>Fill paragraph at or after point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To justify as well: <b>C-u M-q</b></li><li>Note: in refill mode this is done automatically. In auto fill mode the filling is done at the end of the line.</li><li>The <b>M-q</b> key is also used in major modes for programming languages but is mapped to a different command for several of them.</li><li>👉 Refill also properly refill a multi-line comment.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Fill region, each indentation starts a new “paragraph”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <f11> t f i                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | (fill-individual-paragraphs MIN MAX &optional JUSTIFY CITATION-REGEXP)       | <p>Fill paragraphs of uniform indentation within the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This command divides the region into “paragraphs”, treating every change in indentation level or prefix as a paragraph boundary, then fills each paragraph using its indentation level as the fill prefix.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Description                                                                        | Keystroke                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Function                                                               | Note                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fill region considering only paragraph-separator lines as starting a new paragraph | <f11> t f n                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | (fill-nonuniform-paragraphs MIN MAX &optional JUSTIFY CITATION-REGEXP) | Fill paragraphs within the region, allowing varying indentation within each. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This command divides the region into “paragraphs”, only at paragraph-separator lines, then fills each paragraph using as the fill prefix the smallest indentation of any line in the paragraph.</li> </ul>                       |
| Text Justification                                                                 | Text justification is normally used when <a href="#">enriched text support</a> is activated via the <a href="#">enriched-mode</a> . The standard Emacs key-chords listed below are only available in <a href="#">enriched-mode</a> . The <a href="#">PEL key-chords</a> are always available. |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Toggle Enriched Text Mode                                                          | <f11> t m r                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | (enriched-mode &optional ARG)                                          | Minor mode for editing text/enriched files. These are files with embedded formatting information in the MIME standard text/enriched format.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Set justification - full (both)                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M-j b</li> <li>&lt;f11&gt; t j f</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | (set-justification-full B E)                                           | Make paragraphs in the region fully justified. This makes lines flush on both margins by inserting spaces between words. If the mark is not active, this applies to the current paragraph.                                                                                                                                                           |
| Set justification - left                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M-j l</li> <li>&lt;f11&gt; t j l</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | (set-justification-left B E)                                           | Make paragraphs in the region left-justified. This means they are flush at the left margin and ragged on the right. If the mark is not active, this applies to the current paragraph.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Set justification - center                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M-j c</li> <li>M-S</li> <li>&lt;f11&gt; t j c</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                               | (set-justification-center B E)                                         | Make paragraphs in the region centered. If the mark is not active, this applies to the current paragraph                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Set justification - right                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M-j r</li> <li>&lt;f11&gt; t j r</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | (set-justification-right B E)                                          | Make paragraphs in the region right-justified. This means they are flush at the right margin and ragged on the left. If the mark is not active, this applies to the current paragraph.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Set justification - none                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>M-j u</li> <li>&lt;f11&gt; t j n</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | (set-justification-none B E)                                           | Disable automatic filling for paragraphs in the region. If the mark is not active, this applies to the current paragraph.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Centering                                                                          | The following commands center text horizontally.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Center paragraph                                                                   | M-o M-S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | (center-paragraph)                                                     | Center each nonblank line in the paragraph at or after point.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Center line                                                                        | M-o M-s                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | (center-line &optional NLINES)                                         | Center the line point is on, within the width specified by ‘fill-column’. This means adjusting the indentation so that it equals the distance between the end of the text and ‘fill-column’. The argument NLINES says how many lines to center. <div>✂ The <a href="#">%--</a> key is normally bound here in graphics mode. PEL re-assigns it.</div> |

### Filling and Justification — References

| Operation                                     | Keystroke                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Text Filling                                  |                                                                                                                                                             |
| GNU Emacs Lisp - Text - Filling               |                                                                                                                                                             |
| GNU Emacs Lisp - Text - Auto Filling          |                                                                                                                                                             |
| GNU Emacs Lisp - Text - Adaptive Filling      |                                                                                                                                                             |
| GNU Emacs Lisp - Text - Margins               |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Emacs hard wrap lines                         |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Emacs wiki - Ruler Mode                       |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Emacs wiki - refilling mode                   |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Emacs wiki - Auto Fill Mode                   |                                                                                                                                                             |
| How to set multiline comments - StackOverflow |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Line Wraps                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Truncate Lines @ EmacsWiki                    | Describes how to set/disable line wrapping globally. Also explains how to control it for a given mode.                                                      |
| Line Wrap @ EmacsWiki                         | Describes various modes: AutoFillMode, LongLines, VisualLineMode                                                                                            |
| longlines-mode @ emacs horror                 | Discuss difference between longlines-mode and visual-line-mode                                                                                              |
|                                               |                                                                                                                                                             |
| ErgoEmacs: Show Cursor Position               | Xah Lee's ErgoEmacs web site has a picture of the ruler at the top of this page. I did not see one inside Emacs manuals (yet, let me know if you find one). |