



Emacs support for the Tcl Programming Language



Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
Tcl Editing	Emacs built-in support for Tcl is provided by the tcl.el file which provides the tcl-mode to edit Tcl source code and the inferior-tcl-mode to run a Tcl REPL in a buffer.		
	PEL provides extra support, described in this table, when 🔗 the pel-use-tcl user-option is set to t.		
	• As of Emacs 30.2 there is no Tree-Sitter aware mode for TCL implemented yet. See 🔗 Tree Sitter and 🔗 Tree-sitter		
Last updated on:	2025-10-15		
Open this PDF file. See also: 🔗 Help/Info	<div><f11> SPC t <f1></div> <div><f12> <f1></div>	(pel-help-pdf &optional OPEN-WEB-PAGE)	Open the 🔗 PL - Tcl 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 Tcl support	<div><f11> SPC t <f2></div> <div><f12> <f2></div>	(pel-customize-pel &optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Customize PEL Tcl support. • If OTHER-WINDOW is non-nil (use C-u), display in another window.
🔗 Customize Emacs Tcl support	<div><f11> SPC t <f3></div> <div><f12> <f3></div>	(pel-customize-library &optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Customize Emacs Tcl support (which is currently placed in C group): C • If OTHER-WINDOW is non-nil (use C-u), display in another window.
Select tcl-mode for extension-less file 🖱️ The <f12> key is available only until a PEL controlled major mode is activated. Then it becomes a buffer prefix key.	<div><f12></div>	(pel-as &optional FORCE)	Inside a fundamental-mode buffer, interactively select major mode for the buffer. Re-do it with arg. 🖱️ see Create extension-less executable scripts with PEL .
	This command is mostly used to set the major mode of a buffer in fundamental-mode', when the <f12> key binding is available for it. After being used once in a buffer the major mode is selected and the PEL key binding will not be available when PEL supports the major mode.		
	• For Tcl file, select tcl . It will insert a shebang line specified by 🔗 pel-tcl-shebang-line user option.		
	• For Tcl expect script file, select expect . It will insert a shebang line specified by 🔗 pel-tcl-expect-shebang-line user option.		
	PEL defines the (as &optional FORCE) alias unless 🔗 pel-has-alias-as user-option is set to nil. You can use M-x as to invoke it.		
Comments			
Toggle display of comments in buffer or active region See also: 🔗 Comments	<div><f11> ; ;</div>	(hide/show-comments-toggle &optional START END)	Toggle hiding/showing of comments in the active region or whole buffer. • If the region is active then toggle in the region. Otherwise, in the whole buffer. 📦 This requires the hide-comnt.el package (see 🔗 Comments). 🔗 PEL activates it when the pel-use-hide-comnt user option is t.
Generic code skeletons • tempo skeletons See also: • 🔗 Inserting Text • T Templates	Several mechanisms have been developed to allow easy insertion of predefined text in Emacs. ⚠️ PEL does not yet define skeletons for Tcl. You can use the generic one.		
	• Emacs provides the built-in skeleton mechanism and the tempo skeletons .		
	• PEL supports both. They are used a little bit differently. PEL provides generic tempo skeletons you can use for Tcl until PEL adds Tcl-specific skeletons.		
	• PEL provides key bindings to the tempo skeletons: the generic code templates, accessible via the <f6> prefix key, and the language-specific code templates, accessible via the <f12> key prefix.		
🔗 Customize PEL Text Insertions control for Tcl code skeletons.	<div><f6> <f2></div> <div><f12> <f12> <f2></div>	(pel-customize-pel &optional OTHER-WINDOW) (pel-customize-generic-skels &optional OTHER-WINDOW)	Open the customization groups that control the format of the various skeletons including the generic skeleton used by the <f6> h key and the <f12><f12> h key (see below). • If OTHER-WINDOW is non-nil (use C-u), display in other window.
Insert generic file module header block — Language agnostic	<div><f6> h</div> <div><f12> <f12> h</div>	(pel-generic-file-header)	Insert a file header block at the top of the file. Works only for buffer visiting a file. ⚠️ The command key binding <f6> h is available only 1 second after Emacs has started. ⚠️ As mentioned above PEL does not yet define Tcl-specific skeletons, this uses the generic one.
After inserting the template, navigate though areas that must be filled with: • forward: C-c . • backward: C-c ,	🖱️ Specify the format of the header via the user-options in the pel-pkg-generic-code-style customization group accessible via <f6> <f2> • Inside a Tcl buffer, <f12> <f2> provides access to the following customization groups:		
	🖱️ After inserting a template, use tempo-forward-mark and tempo-backward-mark to move to the beginning of each section that must be filled.		
Toggle pel-tempo-mode	<div><f6> SPC</div> <div><f12> <f12> SPC</div>	(pel-tempo-mode &optional ARG)	Toggle PEL tempo mode on/off.
	PEL tempo mode activates C-c . and C-c , , as well as to C-c C- . and C-c C- , key bindings to navigate across tempo mark hot-spots. When pel-tempo-mode is active the pel-tempo-mode lighter (🔗) is shown on the status bar. The second set of keys are only available in graphics mode.		
	🖱️ The pel-generic-file-header command inserts the text using a tempo skeleton: the PEL tempo mode is automatically activated by typing <f6> h .		
Expand any tag in template Note: PEL default skeleton does not use tags.	<div><f6> <f12></div> <div><f12> <f12> <f12></div>	(tempo-complete-tag &optional SILENT)	Look for a tag and expand it. All the tags in the tag lists in ' tempo-local-tags ' (this includes 'tempo-tags') are searched for a match for the text before the point. The way the string to match for is determined can be altered with the variable 'tempo-match-finder'. If 'tempo-match-finder' returns nil, then the results are the same as no match at all. • If a single match is found, the corresponding template is expanded in place of the matching string. • If a partial completion or no match at all is found, and SILENT is non-nil, the function will give a signal. • If a partial completion is found and 'tempo-show-completion-buffer' is non-nil, a buffer containing possible completions is displayed.

Emacs & Tcl — References

Document	Notes
The Tcl Programming Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tcl @ Wikipedia Tcl home