







Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
Navigation Commands	Some navigation commands have special behaviour for Perl; they are shown below. They are available in perl-mode and cperl-mode . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's also several generic navigation commands that work in Perl buffer too. See § Navigation for those. 		
Move to beginning of function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-M-a <f12> <up> 	(perl-beginning-of-function &optional ARG)	Move backward to next beginning-of-function, or as far as possible. With argument, repeat that many times; negative args move forward.
To end of function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-M-e <f12> <down> 	(perl-end-of-function &optional ARG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move forward to next end-of-function. The end of a function is found by moving forward from the beginning of one. With argument, repeat that many times; negative args move backward.
Move to next interpolated	C-c C-v	(cperl-next-interpolated-REx &optional SKIP BEG LIMIT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move point to next REx which has interpolated parts. SKIP is a list of possible types to skip, BEG and LIMIT are the starting point and the limit of search (default to point and end of buffer). SKIP may be a number, then it behaves as list of numbers up to SKIP; this semantic may be used as a numeric argument. Types are 0 for / \$rex /o (interpolated once), 1 for /\$rex/ (if \$rex is a result of qr//, this is not a performance hit), t for the rest
	C-c C-x	(cperl-next-interpolated-REx-0)	Move point to next REx which has interpolated parts without //o.
	C-c C-y	(cperl-next-interpolated-REx-1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move point to next REx which has interpolated parts without //o. Skips REXes consisting of one interpolated variable. Note that skipped REXen are not performance hits.
Marking Commands	The following marking commands are specialized for Perl. See § Marking for the generic ones that can also be used in Perl buffers.		
Mark function	C-M-h	(perl-mark-function)	Put mark at end of Perl function, point at beginning
Indentation Control	The following indentation control commands are specialized for Perl. See § Indentation for the generic ones that can also be used in Perl. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The indentation behaviour of the <tab> key is controlled by the perl-mode and cperl-mode customization user-options. Use <f12> <f3> to open customization. 		
Show currently used indentation style	<f12> <f4> s	(pel-perl-show-style)	Show the name of the currently used indentation style.
Select new/restore old indentation style	<f12> <f4> <TAB>	(pel-perl-set-style &optional PREVIOUS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set Perl indentation style to named style. Prompt for indentation style name and apply it. If optional PREVIOUS argument specified, restore the previously used indentation style.
Indent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perl-mode ➡ cperl-mode ➡ 	<tab>	(perl-indent-command &optional ARG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indent Perl code in the active region or current line. In Transient Mark mode, when the region is active, reindent the region. Otherwise with a prefix argument, reindent the current line unconditionally. Otherwise if 'perl-tab-always-indent' is nil and point is not in the indentation area at the beginning of the line, insert a tab. Otherwise, indent the current line. If point was within the indentation area, it is moved to the end of the indentation area. If the line was already indented properly and point was not within the indentation area, and if 'perl-tab-to-comment' is non-nil (the default), then do the first possible action from the following list: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> delete an empty comment move forward to start of comment, indenting if necessary move forward to end of line create an empty comment move backward to start of comment, indenting if necessary.
		(cperl-indent-command &optional WHOLE-EXP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indent current line as Perl code, or in some cases insert a tab character. If 'cperl-tab-always-indent' is non-nil (the default), always indent current line. Otherwise, indent the current line only if point is at the left margin or in the line's indentation; otherwise insert a tab. A numeric argument, regardless of its value, means indent rigidly all the lines of the expression starting after point so that this line becomes properly indented. The relative indentation among the lines of the expression are preserved.
Indent continued expression <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cperl-mode ➡ 	C-M-q	(perl-indent-exp)	Indent each line of the Perl grouping following point.
		(cperl-indent-exp)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple variant of indentation of continued-sexp. Won't indent comment if it starts at 'comment-indent' or looks like continuation of the comment on the previous line. If 'cperl-indent-region-fix-constructs', will improve spacing on conditional/loop constructs.
Indent region	C-M-\	(cperl-indent-region START END)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indents all the lines whose first character is between START and END inclusive. Won't indent comment if it starts at 'comment-indent' or looks like continuation of the comment on the previous line. If 'cperl-indent-region-fix-constructs', will improve spacing on conditional/loop constructs.
Newline and indent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cperl-mode ➡ 	C-j	(newline-and-indent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert a newline at point, then indent the newly created line. Use it to split a line. Indentation is done using the value of 'indent-line-function' which is set to cperl-indent-line.
Insert Perl new line	C-c C-j	(cperl-linefeed)	Go to end of line, open a new line and indent appropriately. If in POD, insert appropriate lines.
	It's a convenience replacement for typing return . It puts point in the next line with proper indentation, or if you type it inside the inline block of control construct, like <pre>foreach (@lines) {print; print}</pre> and you are on a boundary of a statement inside braces, it will transform the construct into a multiline and will place you into an appropriately indented blank line. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use C-j for usual 'newline-and-indent' behavior. See 'cperl-electric-linefeed' documentation. 		
Insert matching parens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> toggle with C-c C-e 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (< [{ 	(cperl-electric-paren ARG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert an opening parenthesis or a matching pair of parentheses. Controlled by 'cperl-electric-parens' and 'cperl-hairy' user-options.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">)] 	(cperl-electric-rparen ARG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert a matching pair of parentheses if marking is active. If not, or if we are not at the end of marking range, would self-insert. Controlled by 'cperl-electric-parens' and 'cperl-hairy' user-options.
Insert : and indent	:	(cperl-electric-terminator ARG)	Insert character and correct line's indentation.
Insert ; and indent	;	(cperl-electric-semi ARG)	Insert character and correct line's indentation.
Insert { and indent	{	(cperl-electric-lbrace ARG &optional END)	Insert character, correct line's indentation, correct quoting by space.
Insert } and indent	}	(cperl-electric-brace ARG &optional ONLY-BEFORE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert character and correct line's indentation. If ONLY-BEFORE and 'cperl-auto-newline', will insert newline before the place (even in empty line), but not after. If after ")" and the inserted char is "{", insert extra newline before only if 'cperl-extra-newline-before-brace'.
Deleted and possibly untabify	DEL	(cperl-electric-backspace ARG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backspace, or remove whitespace around the point inserted by an electric key. Will untabify if 'cperl-electric-backspace-untabify' is non-nil.
cperl-mode	PEL supports 2 cperl-mode implementations: Emacs' cperl-mode and  Harald Joerg/cperl-mode (more complete) activated by the pel-use-perl user-option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following cperl commands toggle some of its electric behaviour. 		
toggle Perl auto-help	C-c C-h a	(cperl-toggle-autohelp)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toggle the state of Auto-Help on Perl constructs (put in the message area). Delay of auto-help controlled by 'cperl-lazy-help-time'.  By default it is nil, which (like null) prevents activation of the auto-help. To activate it, set cperl-lazy-help-time to an integer value.
Toggle auto-newline	C-c C-a	(cperl-toggle-auto-newline)	Toggle the state of 'cperl-auto-newline' .
Toggle electric mode	C-c C-e	(cperl-toggle-electric)	Toggle the state of parentheses doubling in CPerl mode. When typing an opening parens character the closing one is automatically entered.
Toggle auto-fill mode	C-c C-f	(auto-fill-mode &optional ARG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toggle automatic line breaking (Auto Fill mode). With a prefix argument, enable Auto Fill mode if the prefix argument is positive, disable it otherwise. When Auto Fill mode is enabled, inserting a space at a column beyond 'current-fill-column' automatically breaks the line at a previous space.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <f11> t f a <f11> RET 		

Description	Keystroke	Function	Note
Toggle keyword expansion	C-c C-k	(cperl-toggle-abbrev)	Toggle the state of automatic keyword expansion in CPerl mode.
Toggle space fix	C-c C-w	(cperl-toggle-construct-fix)	Toggle whether ‘ indent-region ’/‘ indent-sexp ’ fix whitespace too.
here-doc support	The following cperl-mode commands operate on Perl here documents .		
Narrows to here-doc	C-c C-n	(cperl-narrow-to-here-doc &optional POS)	Narrows editing region to the HERE-DOC at POS. POS defaults to the point.
Spell-check here-docs	C-c C-d	(cperl-here-doc-spell)	Spell-check HERE-documents in the Perl buffer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a region is highlighted, restricts to the region.
Spell-check POD documentation	C-c C-p	(cperl-pod-spell &optional DO-HERES)	Spell-check POD documentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If invoked with prefix argument, will do HERE-DOCs instead. If a region is highlighted, restricts to the region.
Verify & refactor Perl code	The following commands provide Perl verification and refactoring facilities.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perltidy 	<p>The following 2 commands run perltidy between areas of the Perl code in the current buffer and the tidied version of that code. All work is done inside Emacs buffers, no file is affected. After generating the tidied code the functions open an ediff session to compare your code and the tidied code, allowing you to decide what to use. Requires  HaraldJoerg/cperl-mode activated by the pel-use-perl user-option.</p> <p> The perl-tidy-ediff commands execute the perltidy identified by perl-tidy-command user-option with options identified by the perl-tidy-ediff-args user-option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Perl::Tidy @meta::cpan for the perltidy list of options, also Online PerlTidy , which provides help on the various options categorized by feature set. 		
Run perltidy on current buffer or region . Ediff changes.	<f12> T	(pel-perl-tidy-ediff)	Run perltidy on current buffer, than start an ediff session, comparing the original source with perltidy output. Error messages are saved in the "perl-tidy-errors" buffer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an area is marked, run perltidy on the marked area only.
Run perltidy on current subroutine . Ediff changes.	<f12> t	(perl-tidy-ediff-sub)	Run the perltidy program on the subroutine that stats before point and start en ediff session to compare the original code with the tidied version. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Error messages are saved in the "perl-tidy-errors" buffer.  The buffer is automatically narrowed to the current function. When quitting the ediff session it remains narrowed. Use C-x n w to widen the buffer back.
See ↗ Narrowing			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perlcritic 	Perform static code analysis with perlcritic (which must be installed separately).		
Check code with perlcritic	<f12> c	(pel-perl-critic &optional VERBOSE)	Validate the Perl file visited in current buffer with perlcritic . Report error if it's not installed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With optional VERBOSE prefix argument, print extra information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full name of the Policy module that created the violation Full diagnostic discussion of each Perl Best Practice (PBP) violation. Show errors in compilation-mode buffer in a format that allows navigation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other refactoring 			
Find/fix missing whitespace code	C-c C-b	(cperl-find-bad-style)	Find places in the buffer where insertion of a whitespace may help. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prompts user for insertion of spaces. Currently it is tuned to C and Perl syntax.
Refactor: if (A) {B}' → 'B if A,'	C-c C-t	(cperl-invert-if-unless)	Change ‘if (A) {B}’ into ‘B if A;’ etc (or visa versa) if possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the cursor is not on the leading keyword of the BLOCK flavor of construct, will assume it is the STATEMENT flavor, so will try to find the appropriate statement modifier.
Lining up Perl Code : ↗ Align	It's often best to line up Perl code vertically , arranging elements as tables, to help reader understand the code intent visually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This technique is also promoted in Damian Conway's Perl Best Practice book, Vertical Alignment section of chapter 2. See pel-align-words-vertically in ↗ Align. 		
Lineup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C-M- <f12> 	(cperl-lineup BEG END &optional STEP MINSHIFT)	Lineup construction in a region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning of region should be at the start of a construction. All first occurrences of this construction in the lines that are partially contained in the region are lined up at the same column. MINSHIFT is the minimal amount of space to insert before the construction. STEP is the tabwidth to position constructions. If STEP is nil, ‘cperl-lineup-step’ will be used (or ‘cperl-indent-level’, if ‘cperl-lineup-step’ is nil). Will not move the position at the start to the left.
Testing Perl code	The following command provides a way to test Perl code locally. See Perl 5 Syntax for web-sites that provide a Perl interpreter.		
Start Perl REPL	<f11> z r P	(perl-repl)	Run a Perl REPL in a "Perl-REPL" buffer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the perl-repl external package  activated by perl-use-perl-repl user-option. The perl-repl-file-path user option specifies the name of the Perl REPL program, which may optionally specify the explicit file path. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEL provides the perl-repl shell script which uses the Perl command line.
See: ↗ start Shells/REPLs	<f12> z		

Emacs & Perl — References

Document	Notes
Perl @ Wikipedia	
perl.org	
Learn Perl @ perl.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perl Style Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perl Tutorial - a gentle introduction to Perl with several examples over a browsable set of pages. Perl Intro - a quick introduction to Perl Online Perl books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning Perl
Perl Reference Manuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perl Keywords, Perl Operators. Also see the Perl ABC Operator page: organizes the information in sections (but has some markup typos). Perl Functions
Is Perl still relevant? Most probably.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes Perl relevant in 2022? @ Stackoverflow blog. Perl is dying quick. Could be extinct by 2023. The HFT Guy. 2019. (which includes several invalid points). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My point is that Perl was popular, there's a lot of Perl code still being used and it's worth knowing and being able to write and edit Perl code (which was certainly not the first programming language as state by the article). But anyway, the post represents a point of view (and has many people commenting on it). Perl is making a comeback: 5 reasons why it's worth learning. Posted January 6, 2023 by Lucas Rees. Why Perl Didn't Win on outspeaking.com, updated December 21, 2020
Perl and Secure Coding Practice and Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security Issues in Perl Scripts - by Jordan Dimov - Discussion of misused and overlooked features of Perl from the security point of view. SEI CERT Perl Coding Standard @ Carnegie Mellon University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CERT Perl Secure Coding Standard, by David Svoboda , June 25, 2012 perlsec describes Perl security. Tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The perlcritic script uses Perl::Critic to scan Perl code and provides some listing advices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On some Linux distros you can install it with: <code>sudo dnf install perl-Perl-Critic</code> The perltidy application reformats Perl code to the promoted format. The zarn static analyzer, hosted on Github, is another static analyzer for Perl. (Quite immature as of Oct. 2024).

Document	Notes
Perl File name extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .pl Perl non executable libraries, also used for Perl scripts (but a file with no extension and a shebang line is also fine, and preferable, allowing the invocation of the script without having to type the '.pl'). • .pm Perl modules. • .plx Used by Active State implementation. Identifies executable Perl scripts. Also used elsewhere to distinguish from Prolog (which also uses the .pl file extension). • .pls • .xs • .t • .pod Plain Old Documentation files, a lightweight markup language used to document Perl code. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See also perlpod. • .ph • .cgi • .psgi
Perl programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Perl command line options</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perl 	Perl language interpreter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perlbug / perlthanks 	Describes how to submit bug report on Perl
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perldoc 	Print Perl Documentation, looking it up in the .pod format embedded in perl installation. Support following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -f : <u>built-in functions</u> • -q : FAQ keyword search • -v : <u>variable</u> • -a perl API
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perlvp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perl Installation Verification Procedure : checks Perl installation. • Part of perl-level package.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perltidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>PeriTidy @ Wikipedia</u> , PeriTidy Home Pages: <u>@SourceForge</u> <u>@GitHub</u>. <u>Perl::Tidy GitHub repo</u>, Perl::Tidy @meta::cpan • Online PeriTidy , which provides help on the various options categorized by feature set.
perlsec - Perl security	
Getting Perl Modules with CPAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPAN @ Wikipedia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Zen of Comprehensive Archive Networks</u> • CPAN • <u>Search CPAN — meta::cpan</u> • <u>PAUSE - Perl Authors Upload Server</u> 	Command line tools interacting with <u>CPAN</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cpan : install on some Linux with: sudo dnf install perl-CPAN • cpanplus • cpanminus : cpanm : install on some Linux with: sudo dnf install perl-App-cpanminus