Getting Help / Apropos / Descriptions / Info Manuals / Queries

| Description | Keystroke | Function | Note |
|--|---|--|--|
| Getting Help | | | umented and all of this documentation is accessible from within Emacs: the manuals, the |
| detung Heip | info page, the docstrings of functions and variables, the customization system. You can search for manual, topic, command, function, variable, object names, values inside variables. Emacs has a set of short PDF reference cards. PEL provides a command to open the local copy of these files if they are present. PEL supplements this with a large set of topic-specific PDF files such as this one (identified as Nelp/Info). These have a large set of hyper links to each other, to Emac manual and external package home and description sites. PEL also provides quick access to a large number of topic-oriented PDF files that you can open locally or on GitHub for quickly browsing them all. | | |
| | | nis commands in a section belo | |
| Open local copy of <u>Emacs</u> <u>PDF reference card</u> | <f11> ? e r</f11> | (pel-open-emacs-refcard) | Prompt for an Emacs REFCARD and open it. Supports tab completion. • Attempts to find the directory where the Emacs PDF reference card files are stored. Failing to detect them, di t uses the directory identified by the pel-emacs-refcard-dirpath user option. |
| Emacs Help System | As described above, Emacs | provides help for almost every | thing. The list of commands to access this information is shown in the following rows. |
| Prefix Keys | Key sequences consist of ei | ther one keystroke like C-a or | r M−b, or a key sequence that starts with a prefix, like C−x s, where C−x is the key prefix. |
| List all keys that belong to a prefix | <pre>• <prefix> C-h • <prefix> <f1></f1></prefix></prefix></pre> | | Type C-h (or <f1></f1>) after the prefix keystroke to list all key bindings that belong to that prefix. For example to list all C-x r keys, type C-x r C-h |
| Describe Help | The following commands dis | splay a description of the item t | the command requests. The information is displayed in a read-only *Help* buffer. |
| Show all key commands for this buffer | • C-h b • <f1> b</f1> | (describe-bindings &optional PREFIX BUFFER) | Display a buffer showing a list of all defined keys, and their definitions. The keys are displayed in order of precedence. |
| Help on key binding | • C-h k | (describe-key &optional KEY UNTRANSLATED UP- EVENT) | Display documentation of the function invoked by KEY. KEY can be any kind of a key sequence; it can include keyboard events, mouse events, and/or menu events. Get binding for the typed <keystroke> in the current context. Displays the name of the command function, it's description, it's bindings.</keystroke> |
| | commands that already have | e standard Emacs bindings and | system entered around a set of function keys like <f11>, some of these are bindings for d sometimes the standard Emacs bindings are easier to type. Using C-h k (or the ng may help you discover other, more efficient key bindings for the same command.</f11> |
| Open Info manual describing the command for the specific key | • C-h K | (Info-goto-emacs-key- command-node KEY) | Open the info node in the Emacs manual which describes the command bound to KEY. • Interactively, if the binding is 'execute-extended-command', a command is read. • The command is found by looking up in Emacs manual's indices or in another manual found via COMMAND's 'info-file' property or the variable 'Info-file-list-for-emacs' |
| Print name of function invoked by key | • C-h c <keystroke> • <f1> c <keystroke></keystroke></f1></keystroke> | (describe-key-briefly &optional KEY INSERT UNTRANSLATED) | Print the name of the function KEY invokes. KEY is a string. |
| Describe active major/ minor(s) modes and the key bindings | • C-h m • <f1> m • <f11> ? k m</f11></f1> | (describe-mode &optional BUFFER) | Lists the active major mode, all active minor modes and the bound keystrokes. |
| Describe a package See also: <u>▶ Packages</u> | • C-h P • <f1> P</f1> | (describe-package PACKAGE) | Display the full documentation of PACKAGE (a symbol). Prompts for the package name, supports completion. Shows whether it is installed or not, its version, the features it implements and some extra notes. Accesses the the elpa-compliant sites and downloads text file description. |
| Describe a function | • C-h f • <f1> f</f1> | (describe-function FUNCTION) | Display the full documentation of <u>FUNCTION</u> (a symbol). - For example: C-h f *-mode : Get a completion list of all emacs modes - The buffer shown contains link to the file where the function is implemented. Following the link will open the file in a buffer, even if the file is compressed. |
| Describe symbol | • C-h o • <f1> o</f1> | (describe-symbol SYMBOL &optional BUFFER FRAME) | Display the full documentation of SYMBOL. Will show the info of SYMBOL as a function, variable, and/or face. |
| Describe variable | • C-h v • <f1> v</f1> | (describe-variable VARIABLE &optional BUFFER FRAME) | For example: C-h v load-path: shows the emacs lisp path. Reference: https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/html node/eintr/See-variable-current-value.html |
| Describe bindings for a command | • C-h w • <f1> w</f1> | (where-is DEFINITION & optional INSERT) | Print message listing key sequences that invoke the command DEFINITION. Prompt for command name, supports completion. If INSERT (the prefix arg) is non-nil, insert the message in the buffer |
| Help on Input Method | • C-h I • <f1> I</f1> | (describe-input-method INPUT-METHOD) | Provide information about the <u>input method</u> . Prompts for the name of an input method. See Input Method section for more info. |
| See also: <u>Name Method</u> | • C-h C-\ | (dagarile | Display information shout CODING OVOTEM |
| Describe encoding system Describe buffers encoding ➡ | • C-h C • <f1> C • <f11> ? d C</f11></f1> | (describe-coding-system CODING-SYSTEM) | Display information about CODING-SYSTEM. Prompts for coding system name. Supports completion. Type RET to describe current buffer encoding. |
| Describe language environment | • C-h L • <f1> L</f1> | (describe-language- environment LANGUAGE- NAME) | Describe how Emacs supports language environment LANGUAGE-NAME. • Prompts for language name, proposing the currently used language as the default. • Supports completion. |
| Key Sequence help | | | clearly show. Key strokes are extended in various ways and key prefixes is one of them. g the key sequences, list the remaining available bindings, and list recent history of the |
| List command history See also: | <f11> ? d H</f11> | (list-command-history) | List history of commands that used the minibuffer. |
| See also: <u>▼ Undo/Redo/Repeat/Arg</u> | | | Show list of commands in the *Command History* buffer as a list of Emacs Lisp forms. |
| Toggle which-key mode | <f11> ? k K</f11> | (which-key-mode &optional ARG) | Toggle which-key-mode. When which-key mode is enabled, and you type a prefix key, all keys bound following this prefix are shown in the mini buffer (if you wait long enough to let them display). This requires the which-key package. PEL downloads, installs and activates it when the pel-use-which-key user option is set to t. |
| Show state of PEL numlock | <f11> ? k #</f11> | (pel-show-mac-numlock) | Display state of 'pel-mac-keypad-numlocked' used to control the numeric keypad. |
| Show state of key-chord mode. See: <u>Ney-Chords</u> | • <f11> <f5> k ? • <f11> ? k M-K</f11></f5></f11> | (pel-key-chord-describe) | Show state of key-chord-mode. When key-chord mode is on, list key chord bindings in a help buffer. |

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Keystroke</u> | Function | <u>Note</u> |
|--|--|---|--|
| Show top level bindings in the map of the current major mode | <f11> ? k k</f11> | (which-key-show-major-mode) | Show top-level bindings in the map of the current major mode. This function will also detect evil bindings made using 'evil-define-key' in this map. These bindings will depend on the current evil state. This requires the which-key package. PEL downloads, installs and activates it when the pel-use-which-key user option to is set to t. |
| Toggle keycast mode on/off | <f11> ? k c</f11> | (keycast-mode &optional ARG) | Show current command and its key binding in the mode line. Use it to create a screen cast to show how to use Emacs. This requires the keycast external package PEL makes keycast available when the pel-use-keycast user option is set to t . |
| Show personal key bindings | <f11> ? k b</f11> | (describe-personal- keybindings) | Display all the personal keybindings defined by 'bind-key'. |
| Display free keys | <f11> ? k f</f11> | (free-keys &optional PREFIX BUFFER) | Display free keys in current buffer. • A free key is a key without associated key-binding as determined by 'key-binding'. |
| | You can change the prefix | sequence by hitting 'p' in the | quence are considered, possibly together with modifier keys from 'free-keys-modifiers'. *Free keys* buffer. Prefix is supplied in format recognized by 'kbd', for example "C-x". nis when the pel-use-free-keys user option is t. |
| Display last few typed characters | • C-h 1 • <f1> 1 • <f11> ? k 1</f11></f1> | (view-lossage) | Display last few input keystrokes and the commands run. • To record all your input, use 'open-dribble-file'. |
| Record ALL typed characters to a file | M-x open-dribble- file | (open-dribble-file FILE) | Start writing all keyboard characters to a dribble file called FILE. If FILE is nil, close any open dribble file. The file will be closed when Emacs exits. Be aware that this records ALL characters you type! This may include sensitive information such as passwords. |
| Redo/edit last complex command executed See also: <u>Undo/Redo/Repeat/Arg</u> | • C-x Esc Esc • C-x M-Esc • C-x M-: | (repeat-complex-command ARG) | Edit and re-evaluate last complex command, or ARGth from last. A complex command is one which used the minibuffer. The command is placed in the minibuffer as a Lisp form for editing. The result is executed, repeating the command as changed. If the command has been changed or is not the most recent previous command it is added to the front of the command history. You can use the minibuffer history commands M-n and M-p to get different commands to edit and resubmit. |
| Command Log Mode | The command-log-mode open a dedicated window that shows the log of all key sequence and mouse events and the executed command name. The information is similar to what is available with view-lossage, but in a nicely formatted way, much easier to use. See the Windows table for commands that can be used to toggle the dedicated state of the window allowing you to move the window. This requires the command-log-mode.el file from the command-log-mode external package. PEL installs the latest version of that file when the pel-use-command-log-mode user option is set to t. PEL saves it inside your ./emacs/utils directory. To get the latest version, erase that file and its .elc from ./emacs/utils and execute pel-init or restart Emacs. PEL gets it this way because the official project does not seem to be maintained. If this changes, PEL will be updated to use the MELPA version. With PEL you can customize command-log-mode by typing <f11>? <f3> to access its command-log customization group.</f3></f11> | | |
| Toggle command logging for current buffer | <f11> ? k c c</f11> | (command-log-mode &optional ARG) | Toggle command logging: command-log-mode in the current buffer. • The command-log lighter is shown on the mode line while the minor mode is active. |
| Toggle command logging for all buffers | <f11> ? k c C</f11> | (global-command-log- mode &optional ARG) | Toggle command logging globally: for all buffers. • The command-log lighter is shown on the mode line while the minor mode is active. |
| Open Command Log buffer | <f11> ? k c o</f11> | (clm/open-command-log- buffer &optional ARG) | Opens (and creates, if non-existant) a buffer used for logging keyboard commands. • With any prefix argument, the existing command log buffer is cleared. |
| Close Command Log buffer | <f11> ? k c .</f11> | (clm/close-command-log- buffer) | Close the command log window. • Logging continues while the window is closed. |
| Toggle log of all commands | <f11> ? k c /</f11> | (clm/toggle-log-all) | Toggle the logging of all commands: activate/de-activate common command filtering. • command-log-mode either logs all commands or filter some often used ones like the cursor and character movements. The default setting is controlled by the clm/log-all user option. • The list of non-logged commands is controlled by the clm/non-logged-commands user option. |
| Help with Emacs <u>Help</u> , <u>Apropos</u> , and <u>Info</u> . | | | tion in buffers using the info reader format. The info reader mode commands are shown an always get help on the current mode, that applies to the info reader mode as well. |
| Show information available about specified pattern | <f11> ? a a</f11> | (apropos PATTERN &optional DO-ALL) | Show all meaningful Lisp symbols whose names match PATTERN. Symbols are shown if they are defined as functions, variables, or faces, or if they have nonempty property lists. PATTERN can be a word, a list of words (separated by spaces), or a regexp (using some regexp special characters). If it is a word, search for matches for that word as a substring. If it is a list of words, search for matches for any two (or more) of those words. |
| Get a-propos info on command | • C-h a • <f1> a • <f11> ? a c</f11></f1> | (apropos-command PATTERN & Optional DO-ALL VAR-PREDICATE) | Show commands (interactively callable functions) that match PATTERN. PATTERN can be a word, a list of words (separated by spaces), or a regexp (using some regexp special characters). If it is a word, search for matches for that word as a substring. If it is a list of words, search for matches for any two (or more) of those words. With C-u prefix, or if 'apropos-do-all' is non-nil, also show non interactive functions. Examples: <f1> a mode : list all modes available in the Emacs session, showing their key bindings and a quick description. Old Emacs command name was: command-apropos.</f1> |
| Look for topic in all info documents | <f11> ? i a</f11> | (info-apropos STRING) | Prompts for a string and looks up for that string in all the indices of all the Info documents installed in the system. Opens an Apropos index menu with the links to the found topics. Use this to <i>find the manual section(s) that describe a specific function or variable</i> . |
| Open the Info Reader on specific topic | • C-h i • <f1> i • <f11> ? i i • %-?</f11></f1> | (info &optional FILE-OR- NODE BUFFER) | Open the *info* buffer if already opened. If not, open the info reader for the top node. • A non-numeric prefix argument (C-u) directs this command to read a file name from the minibuffer. It is possible to open a compressed .info.gz file directly! Emacs will uncompress it and open it. • A <i>numeric prefix</i> argument of N selects an Info buffer named "*info* <n>".</n> |
| | | | y specify an Info node of the form "(FILENAME)NODENAME". owing actions available once emacs is in the Info Reader Mode. |
| Search for text in function and variables doc strings | • C-h d • <f1> d • <f11> ? a d</f11></f1> | (apropos-documentation PATTERN &optional DO- ALL) | Search for functions and variables whose documentation strings match the specified pattern and display the appropriate info pages. |
| List variables and functions defined in Emacs Lisp file. | <f11> ? a L</f11> | (apropos-library FILE) | List the variables and functions defined by library FILE. FILE should be one of the libraries currently loaded and should thus be found in 'load-history'. |

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Keystroke</u> | Function | Note |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| Show buffer-local variables | <f11> ? a 1</f11> | (apropos-local-variable | Show buffer-local variables that match PATTERN. |
| | - | PATTERN &optional BUFFER) | Optional arg BUFFER (default: current buffer) is the buffer to check. |
| Show user option | <f11> ? a o</f11> | (apropos-user-option PATTERN &optional DO- ALL) | Show user options that match PATTERN. PATTERN can be a word, a list of words (separated by spaces), or a regexp (using some regexp special characters). If it is a word, search for matches for that word as a substring. If it is a list of words, search for matches for any two (or more) of those words. • With C-u prefix, also show variables, not just user options. |
| Show all symbols that have a specific value | <f11> ? a u</f11> | (apropos-value PATTERN &optional DO-ALL) | Show all symbols whose value's printed representation matches PATTERN. PATTERN can be a word, a list of words (separated by spaces), or a regexp (using some regexp special characters). If it is a word, search for matches for that word as a substring. If it is a list of words, search for matches for any two (or more) of those words. With C-u prefix, or if 'apropos-do-all' is non-nil, also looks at function definitions (arguments, documentation and body) and at the names and values of properties. |
| Show variables that match a specific name pattern | <f11> ? a v</f11> | (apropos-variable PATTERN &optional DO- NOT-ALL) | Show variables that match PATTERN. • With the optional argument DO-NOT-ALL non-nil (or when called interactively with the prefix C-u), show user options only, i.e. behave like 'apropos-user-option'. |
| Open specified info manual | <f11> ? i m</f11> | (info-display-manual MANUAL) | Prompt for a specific Info manual to open in a buffer. • Example: "eintr" := Introduction to Emacs Lisp. |
| Open Emacs Manual describing a specified command function | • C-h F • <f1> F</f1> | (Info-goto-emacs- command-node COMMAND) | Go to the Info node in the Emacs manual for command COMMAND. • The command is found by looking up in Emacs manual's indices or in another manual found via COMMAND's 'info-file' property or the variable 'Info-file-list-for-emacs'. COMMAND must be a symbol or string. |
| Find specified function function or variable in info | • C-h S • <f1> F</f1> | (info-lookup-symbol SYMBOL &optional MODE) | Display the definition of SYMBOL, as found in the relevant info manual. • When this command is called interactively, it reads SYMBOL from the minibuffer. In the minibuffer, use M-n to yank the default argument value into the minibuffer so you can edit it. The default symbol is the one found at point. • With prefix arg MODE a query for the symbol help mode is offered. |
| Info reader mode | The keys that can be typed | in the *Info* buffers and their m | eanings include the following: |
| keys | | nfo help | |
| | | down into the node text, move Down inside the node text (Do | e to following text/node if already at end es not move to other node) |
| | : Page | up into the node text, move to | previous text/node if already at top |
| | | up into the node text. (Does no to the top of the Info documen | |
| | | node in the current level k navigation: highlight each targ | net with a target key |
| | | | ackage 2 activated when the pel-use-ace-link user option is set to t. |
| | • | ous node in the current level | |
| | | Node (any level) ous Node (any level) | |
| | | e to the Upper node (in the mer History: visit last (lowercase 'L | |
| | r : Info l | History: visit history forward | |
| | | History: Create Virtual Node of a | all last visited ntry. Emacs prompts for the menu text. |
| | At | breviation is supported. Tab co | impletion also supported. |
| | | u - enter nodes' sub-menu (at c u - enter nodes' sub-menu (at c | • • |
| | | | elect the corresponding menu entry. 1 := first. and 9 are coloured in red to help identify them. |
| | f crossref-text : Cross | s Reference - follow node's cro | ss reference To get all cross references, type: f? |
| | | | sor to nodes' next sub-menu/cross-reference link sor to nodes' previous sub-menu/cross-reference link |
| | | ch Info - search entire info file fo | or a string. |
| | | After typing 's' type the string to repeat search type 's' follow | ved by <ret></ret> |
| | | | the index for a specific topic. Prompts for the topic. Il are found, the ',' character can be used to display each one in turn. |
| | | ess any section of any manual | with the <i>Info Reader</i> by doing this: |
| | | C-h i to open the Info F m to open the ment | Reader at the top u prompt in the menu buffer |
| | ı : (Sea | 3. type topic name and RET | o node displaying results of an index search. |
| | | Runs the command (Info-virtu | al-index TOPIC) |
| | g : Goto | | de name: abbreviation is not supported, but completion with TAB is supported . file using the syntax: 'g(filename)Topic <ret>'</ret> |
| | <f11> ? i a : M-xi</f11> | Topic may be "": means: oper | n the whole file in the buffer. earch in all Info files installed in the computer |
| | M-n : Crea | te New Independent Info Buffer | |
| | | i opens a new, independent, int inal. | o buffer, that at first contains the same Info, but can be managed independently from the |
| | | s can also be done using: m : Move to menu entry into r | new Info buffer |
| | • C-u | g: Go to topic in new Info buff | fer |
| Programming Help | | · | opic into a 'Info<#>' buffer (for the identified number) creating it if necessary. It are useful when editing source code files. |
| Utilities Show what completion | <f11> M-c ?</f11> | (pel-show-active- | Display the completion mode currently used. |
| mode is currently used. | | completion-mode) | |
| Toggle which-function-mode to display name of current function at point | <f11> ? f</f11> | (which-function-mode &optional ARG) | Toggle mode line display of current function (Which Function mode). With a prefix argument ARG, enable Which Function mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise. The which-function-mode is a global minor mode. When enabled, the current function name is continuously displayed in the mode line, in certain major modes. |
| | | s where you want this activated EL you can use <f11> <f2></f2></f11> | in the which-function-mode user-option with M-x customize-option which- o for the command. |
| Show syntax of char at point | <f11> ? d s</f11> | (pel-show-char-syntax) | Display a message showing the character syntax of character at point. |
| Extra Descriptions | | | built-in Emacs commands to display other the following extra information. |
| | <f11> ? ?</f11> | | |
| Show symbols of currently active major mode | | (pel-show-major-mode) | Display the symbol of the currently active major mode. |
| Show which search tool is currently used | <f1> ? s</f1> | (pel-show-active-search-tool) | Display the currently used search tool. |

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Keystroke</u> | Function | <u>Note</u> | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Show available colours | <f11> ? d c</f11> | (list-colors-display &optional LIST BUFFER- NAME CALLBACK | Display names of defined colors, and show what they look like. | |
| List all available faces | <f11> ? d F</f11> | (list-faces-display &optional REGEXP) | List all faces, using the same sample text in each. | |
| Show buffer and file name | <f11> ? d f</f11> | (pel-show-window-filename-or-buffer-name) | Show the (full path) name of the file or buffer of current window. | |
| Show information about an input method | <f11> ? d i</f11> | (list-input-methods) | Display information about all input methods. | |
| Display content of kill ring | <f11> ? d k</f11> | (pel-show-kill-ring) | Display content of 'kill-ring' in *Help* buffer. | |
| Print current buffer line # (and narrowed line #) | <f11> ? d l</f11> | (what-line) | Print the current buffer line number and narrowed line number of point. | |
| Query info about point | • C-x = • <f11> ? d p</f11> | (what-cursor-position & Optional DETAIL) | Displays information about character at point in the echo area: position, character, encoding. | |
| Show information about current character. | • Type: C-u C-x = | • Swith any prefix argument opens a *Help* buffer and show the complete information of character at point with all properties, face, encoding, etc. | | |
| Show window dimension | <f11> ? d w</f11> | (pel-show-window-sizes) | Show the height & width of the current window. | |
| Display ASCII table | <f11> ? A</f11> | (ascii-table) | Show an interactive ASCII table in the other (next) window. | |
| See also: ∑ Input Method | | | Requires the <u>ascii-table</u> package PEL activates this when the pel-use-ascii-table user option is t . | |
| About Emacs | Information about Emacs, its | s environment and configuratio | n is available through a set of commands listed below | |
| Open local copy of Emacs | <f11> ? e r</f11> | (pel-open-emacs-refcard) | Prompt for an Emacs REFCARD and open it. Supports tab completion | |
| PDF reference card | Attempts to find the direct pel-emacs-refcard-dirpa | • | erence card files are stored. Failing to detect them, dit uses the directory identified by the | |
| Show PEL user option and package info See also: Customize | <f11> ? e ?</f11> | (pel-package-info &optional FULL-REPORT) | Display the following information in the echo area: • The number of PEL user-options, and the number of them that are active. • The number of Elpa packages active: the count of the ones directly installed because of active PEL user-options and the count of them installed as dependencies of the first group. • The number of Emacs Lisp files stored in the ~/.emacs.d/utils (or equivalent directory) as a result of PEL user options. • With optional argument, generates a full report with much more details in a *pel-user- | |
| | | | options⁺ report buffer. Any key prefix works. M− - <f11> ? e ? for example.</f11> | |
| Show number of available and key bound commands | <f11> ? e c</f11> | (pel-emacs-command- stats) | Display number of available commands and the number of those that have key bindings in the echo area, and the number of bindings in the global map. | |
| Show loaded files & features | <f11> ? e 1</f11> | (pel-emacs-load-stats &optional WITH_DETAILS) | Display the number of loaded files and the number of features currently loaded. • With C-u prefix print features in a buffer. With C-u C-u, also print load information. | |
| Display Memory Usage | <f11> ? e m</f11> | (pel-emacs-mem-stats) | Display Emacs memory statistics inside an *emacs-mem-stats* buffer. | |
| Display load-path | <f11> ? e p</f11> | | | |
| Check/display list of shadowed Emacs Lisp files | <f11> ? e s</f11> | (list-load-path-shadows &optional STRINGP) | Display a list of Emacs Lisp files that shadow other files • Shows any shadows in a '*Shadows*' buffer | |
| Display Emacs initialization time with benchmark | • <f11> ? e t • <m-s-f9></m-s-f9></f11> | (pel-show-init-time) | Display benchmark startup time. | |
| information if available | Display the benchmark initialization and duration tree in 2 buffers if the benchmark-init library is installed and loaded in the init.el file. It also display the Emacs startup time inside the echo area. ▶ Uses the <u>benchmark-init</u> library to measure time of the various loaded modules. Use M-x list-package, select benchmark-init and install it. Then update your init.el file and place the following lines as close as possible to the top of the file: ;; Setup Benchmark Measurement ;; | | | |
| Display Emacs uptime | <f11> ? e u</f11> | (emacs-uptime &optional FORMAT) | Display a string giving the uptime of this instance of Emacs in the echo area. | |
| Display Emacs version | <f11> ? e v</f11> | (emacs-version) | Display Emacs version | |
| Display Emacs executable path | <f11> ? e x</f11> | (pel-emacs-executable) | Display Emacs executable path in echo area. | |
| ESUP - Emacs Start Up Profiler | <f11> ? e P</f11> | (esup &optional INIT-FILE &rest ARGS) | Profile the startup time of Emacs in the background. If INIT-FILE is non-nil, profile that instead of USER-INIT-FILE. ARGS is a list of extra command line arguments to pass to Emacs. | |
| | Requires the <u>esup</u> external package. PEL activates it when the <u>pel-use-esup</u> customization variable is set to t. The esup profiler has several limitations: 1) it only supports Emacs running in graphics mode. 2) esup steps into 'require' and 'load' forms at the top level of a file but not if they are enclosed in any other statements. This limits its usefulness when conditional loading is located in the init.el file and when the use-package macros are used. Both of these techniques are used by PEL to reduce init time. | | | |
| Print imenu controlling variables | <f11> ? e i</f11> | (pel-imenu-dbg-print-vars) | Print the value of the imenu variables used to control the imenu functionality for the current buffer. • Print this information in a *imenu-chat* buffer. | |
| See also: <u>Nenus</u> | | | Print this information in a *imenu-dbg* buffer. Use this when investigating the imenu support for a major mode: use as a (currently primitive) Emacs development tool. | |
| | | | | |

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Keystroke</u> | Function | <u>Note</u> |
|---|--|---|--|
| List processes See also: <u>∑ Shells</u> | • <f11> ? e C-p • <f11> z ?</f11></f11> | (list-processes &optional QUERY-ONLY BUFFER) | Display a list of all processes that are Emacs sub-processes. If optional argument QUERY-ONLY is non-nil, only processes with the query-on-exit flag set are listed. Any process listed as exited or signalled is actually eliminated after the listing is made. |
| More Help | | | |
| Open Emacs Tutorial | • C-h t • <f1> t</f1> | (help-with-tutorial &optional ARG DONT-ASK- FOR-REVERT) | Open an Emacs Tutorial. Restore location if used before (after prompt). |
| Find Elisp Package See also: <u>Packages</u> | • C-h p • <f1> p</f1> | (finder-by-keyword) | Find packages matching a given keyword. Useful to search for packages supporting a specific concept. |
| Open Emacs FAQ | • C-h C-f • <f1> C-f</f1> | (view-emacs-FAQ) | Display the Emacs Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) file. |
| Emacs news | • C-h n • <f1> n</f1> | (view-emacs-news &optional VERSION) | Display info on recent changes to Emacs. With argument, display info only for the selected version. Includes code modifications of each version of Emacs. |
| Using Man inside Emacs See also: • ¾I - Erlang • ∑ Customize | Emacs provide 2 main commands to display man pages inside buffers. Both of these are much more powerful than the usual man reader available on the shell allowing navigation across man pages and opening hyperlinks. The man command uses the system man utility, while woman is a complete implementation. It has some formatting limitations compared to man but it's very useful in systems where man is not available. The man command will find pages that the system's man can find. This can be extended or modified by setting the MANPATH environment variable. Inside Emacs you can also customize the Emacs Man-switches user option to provide extra configuration including a different MANPATH | | |
| Open a man page inside an Emacs buffer | • <f11> ? m</f11> | (man MAN-ARGS) | Erlang man pages in the भा - Erlang table. Open a Man page inside an Emacs window. |
| | Using man pages inside emacs is even better than using it from the shell because: • The links are active and can be followed. When the man page describes a directory or file, emacs will open the file or the directory (in direct mode) when pressing <ret> over the link. • You can navigate easily between sections (n/p will move to the next/previous section). You can use any of the searches. • You can use any of the options to the man command at the prompt, like the -a option to access all man pages of the same name. Then use M-n and M-p to move from one to the other page, inside the same buffer. • See all keys available in mode, with <f1> m or <f11>? k m.</f11></f1></ret> | | |
| | specified set of man pages | | wever, if you set up a MANPATH to isolate on directory to get only the list of commands in a I, the completion will only work if the man directory contains a whatsis database file. See irectory. |
| Open a man page without external man process: woman | <f11> ? w</f11> | (woman &optional TOPIC RE-CACHE) | Open a man page file in Emacs using the woman mode, completely implemented in Emacs Lisp (and therefore without using the external 'man' process). |
| | That can be very useful under environments where man is not available (such as basic Windows). PEL key sequence to customize man: <f11> <f2> E w text width, use word at point, etc With ace-link external package activated when the pel-use-ace-link user option is set to t., the following key is activated: O : Quick navigation: highlight each target with a target key.</f2></f11> | | |
| Open PEL PDF Help File See also: <u>➤Legend</u> | PEL includes a list of help PDF files such as this one for several topics. You can open a local or GitHub hosted raw copy of these help PDF using the PEL help commands bound to the <f1> key available inside several PEL key prefixes. For example several major modes bind the <f12><f1> key sequence to PEL help. Other such as help for abbreviations is <f11> a <f1> The complete list of these key bindings is listed below. Unfortunately not all Help PDF files have key sequences for them. However, you can: Open any PDF file with the pel-help-pdf-select command: it prompts for a topic with tab completion support: use <f11>? p Open a dired buffer on the local directory where all PDF files are stored with <f11>? P . Select the file(s) and type z to open the selected file(s). Each PEL PDF uses icons and colour conventions. These conventions are described in the >Legend table. When opening a GitHub hosted raw PDF you will want to use a browser that is capable of rendering the PDF directly instead of downloading the file to your file-system. Firefox does this by default. You may need to install a plugin for other browsers. These PEL functions select the local PDF or the remote GitHub raw PDF via a combination of factors:</f11></f11></f1></f11></f1></f12></f1> | | |
| | By default it opens the local PDF file unless a prefix argument is specified by typing C-u or M before the command key sequence. If the pel-flip-help-pdf-arg user-option is set to t, it's the other way around: it opens the remote GitHub raw PDF by default. By default, when opening a remote GitHub raw PDF it uses the default browse method selected by the browse-url-browser-function user-option is to use the system browser. You can force another one by setting PEL's pel-browser-used user-option to 'firefox or 'chrome. When you do that the new selected browser is also used for the local file. If you want to use this browser for remote files only and keep Emacs' ability to use a PDF viewer for local files, then set the pel-open-pdf-method user-option to 'pdf-viewer. | | |
| Open this PDF file. | <f11> ? <f1></f1></f11> | (pel-help-pdf &optional OPEN-WEB-PAGE) | Open the <u>Nelp/Info</u> 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 useroption is set it's the other way around. |
| Select and Open a PEL PDF file | <f11> ? p</f11> | (pel-help-pdf-select &optional OPEN-WEB- PAGE) | Prompt for a PEL PDF and open it. By default it opens the local PDF file, but if the OPEN-WEB-PAGE argument is non-nil it opens the web-based PDF copy hosted on Github. Supports completion. Defaults to the PEL key maps pdf. |
| Open a Dired Buffer for PEL PDF files. | <f11> ? P</f11> | (pel-help-pdfs-dir) | Open a Dired buffer on the PEL PDF directory. Inside Dired you can open a PDF file by typing 'z' over the file name. You can also select several and type 'z' to open them all. |
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| ∑ Abbreviations | <f11> a <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>∑ Abbreviations</u> PDF t | file. |
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Open <u>**∑ Customize**</u> PDF file.

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∑ Customize

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Keystroke</u> | Function | <u>Note</u> |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| ∑ Diff & Merge | <f11> d <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>∑ Diff & Merge</u> PDF file | |
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| ∑ Drawing | <f11> D <f1></f1></f11> | Open ∑ Drawing PDF file. | |
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| Line management. | <f11> \(\) \(\) \(\) \(\) \(\) \(\) \(\) \(\</f11> | Open Display - Lines PDF | |
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| <u> </u> | • <f11> <f8> <f1></f1></f8></f11> | Open ∑ Projectile PDF file. | |
| | • <f8> <f1></f1></f8> | The key sequence <f8> <</f8> | f1> is available when the projectile mode is activated. |
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| <u>₩1 - C++</u> | <f11> SPC C <f1></f1></f11> | | thod specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a |
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| B ℓ - Clojure | <f11> SPC C-j <f1></f1></f11> | | method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a |
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| <u> т. D</u> | <f11> SPC D <f1></f1></f11> | | od specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command |
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| Bι - Erlang | <f11> SPC e <f1></f1></f11> | | method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a |
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| <u> pι - Elixir</u> | <f11> SPC x <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>Bt</u> - Elixir PDF using m | ethod specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a |
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| Description | <u>Keystroke</u> | Function Note | |
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| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| Bί - Forth | <f11> SPC f <f1></f1></f11> | Open \$1 - Forth PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| <u> 1β1 - Go</u> | <f11> SPC g <f1></f1></f11> | Open 31 - Go PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| <u> 1</u> βι - Hy | <f11> SPC C-h <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$1 - Hy</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| <u>ֆ</u> ῖ - Gleam | <f11> SPC M-G <f1></f1></f11> | Open the <u>\$\partial 1 \tau - Gleam \text{ PDF} using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a</u> | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| ₽ῖ - Javascript | <f11> SPC i <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>%1 - Hy</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command | |
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| <u>pι - Julia</u> | <f11> SPC j <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>%I - Julia</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
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| ⊈भ्रा - Emacs Lisp | <f11> SPC 1 <f1></f1></f11> | Open 章取 - Emacs Lisp PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
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| B ῖ - Common Lisp | <f11> SPC L <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$\mathbb{Y}\tilde{\text{ - Common Lisp}}\text{ PDF}\$ using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if</u> | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | a command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| <u>Bι - LFE</u> | <f11> SPC C-1 <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$\mathbf{Y}\cdot - LFE</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| ½ ί - NetRexx | <f11> SPC N <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$\mathbb{Y}\tilde{\text{\chi}}\tilde{\text{NetRexx}}\tilde{\text{PDF}}\text{using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a</u> | |
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| <u>Bι - Python</u> | <f11> SPC p <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>NI - Python</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
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| <u>βι - REXX</u> | <f11> SPC R <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$1</u> - REXX PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
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| <u>nt - Rust</u> | <f11> SPC r <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$1 - Rust PDF</u> using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
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| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| Build Tools | | | |
| <u>at - Make</u> | <f11> SPC M <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>\$1 - Make</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
| Markup languages | | | |
| M Graphviz Dot | <f11> SPC M-g <f1></f1></f11> | Open <u>M Graphviz Dot</u> PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
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| M Outline/Org-Mode | <f11> SPC M-o <f1></f1></f11> | Open M Outline/Org-Mode PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
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| <u>M</u> PlantUML | • <f11> D u <f1> • <f11> SPC M-u <f1></f1></f11></f1></f11> | Open M PlantUML PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if a command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |
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| M Markdown | <f11> SPC M-m <f1></f1></f11> | Open M Markdown PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if command prefix (like c - u) was used. | |
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| <u>₩</u> reStructuredText | <f11> SPC M-r <f1></f1></f11> | Open M reStructuredText PDF using method specified by the pel-open-pdf-method user-option or the alternate one if | |
| | <f12> <f1></f1></f12> | a command prefix (like C-u) was used. | |

Help - References

| Topic & Link | Description |
|---|---|
| Emacs Help | |
| GNU Emacs Manuals Online | The page with the list of all available online GNU Emacs manuals. |
| GNU Emacs Manual - Help | Emacs manual - Help chapter |
| Gnu Emacs Manual - Help Mode | Describes the command and key bindings that can be used in the Help-mode buffer window, which shows the help information. |
| Emacs Manuals | Note that all Emacs manuals are available inside of Emacs. It's better to test, investigate code, etc |
| GNU Emacs Manuals Online | Lists all GNU Emacs manuals, reference cards, etc |
| GNU Emacs Manual | Points to different formats of the manual. The format where all is inside one HTML file is useful to search. There's also the PDF formats. |
| GNU Reference Cards | This is accessible via the first link. |
| Emacs Papers | |
| EMACS: The Extensible, Customizable Display Editor | This paper was written by Richard Stallman in 1981 and delivered in the ACM Conference on Text Processing. |
| Emacs Tutorials | |
| A Guided Tour of Emacs | The official Emacs Tutorial. Part of Emacs. Best used <i>inside</i> Emacs. A good starting point. Use the others to get different point of views. |

| Topic & Link | Description |
|--|---|
| Absolute Beginner's Guide to Emacs | |
| A Tutorial Introduction to GNU Emacs | |
| Practical Emacs Tutorial @ ErgoEmacs | |
| Emacs Cheat Sheet / Keystroke Lists | Note, however, that Emacs itself and PEL provides similar information. |
| Emacs Videos | |
| Emacs Rocks - home | A collection of Youtube homed videos about various Emacs features. Well documented with keystrokes showing on the screen cast. Worth watching slowly to catch what is being done. |
| Emacs and Man files | |
| How to create a local whatis file | Show how to create a missing whatis file for a set of man pages and the philosophy behind apropos, whatis and makewhatis. |