Here are some of the most important commands that are used in emacs.

Starting, Exiting, Reading and Writing Files in emacs

| Command | Description |
|--------------|---|
| emacs myfile | Start emacs and edit myfile |
| Ctl-x i | Insert prompted for file at current position |
| Ctl-x s | Write out the file keeping current name |
| Ctl-x Ctl-w | Write out the file giving a new name when prompted |
| Ctl-x Ctl-s | Write out all files currently being worked on and exit |
| Ctl-x Ctl-c | Exit after being prompted if there any unwritten modified files |

Changing Position in emacs

| Command | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| arrow keys | Use the arrow keys for up, down, left and right; or: |
| Ctl-n | One line down |
| Ctl-p | One line up |
| Ctl-f | One character left |
| Ctl-b | One character right |
| Ctl-a | Move to beginning of line |
| Ctl-e | Move to end of line |
| M-f | Move to beginning of next word |
| M-b | Move back to beginning of preceding word |
| M-< | Move to beginning of file |
| M-x goto-line n | Move to line n |
| M-> | Move to end of file |
| Ctl-v or PageDown | Move forward one page |
| M-v or PageUp | Move backward one page |
| Ctl-l | Refresh and center screen |

Searching for Text in emacs

| Command | Description |
|---------|--|
| Ctl-s | Search forward for prompted for pattern, or for next pattern |
| Ctl-r | Search backwards for prompted for pattern, or for next pattern |

Changing, Adding and Deleting Text in emacs

| Command | Description |
|-----------|---|
| Ctl-o | Insert a blank line |
| Ctl-d | Delete character at current position |
| Ctl-k | Delete the rest of the current line |
| Ctl-_ | Undo the previous operation |
| Ctl-space | Mark the beginning of the selected region; the end will be at the cursor position |
| Ctl-w | Yank (cut) the current marked region and put it in buffer |
| Ctl-y | Paste at the current position the yanked line or lines from the buffer |



