

Emacs Quick Reference

Navigation, editing, buffers, search, org mode, packages

Navigation

Cursor Movement

C-f / C-b	Forward / backward one character
M-f / M-b	Forward / backward one word
C-n / C-p	Next / previous line
C-a / C-e	Beginning / end of line
M-a / M-e	Beginning / end of sentence
C-v / M-v	Scroll down / up one page
M-< / M->	Beginning / end of buffer
M-g g	Go to line number

Screen Positioning

C-l	Recenter screen (cycle top/center/bottom)
C-M-l	Reposition window heuristically

Editing

Kill & Yank (Cut & Paste)

C-k	Kill to end of line
C-w	Kill region (cut)
M-w	Copy region
C-y	Yank (paste)
M-y	Cycle through kill ring after yank
C-d	Delete character forward
M-d	Kill word forward
M-DEL	Kill word backward

Undo & Transpose

C- / or C-_	Undo
C-g C- /	Redo (undo the undo)
C-t	Transpose characters
M-t	Transpose words
C-x C-t	Transpose lines

Selection

C-SPC	Set mark (start selection)
C-x h	Select entire buffer
M-h	Select paragraph
C-x C-x	Exchange point and mark

Buffers & Windows

Buffers

C-x b	Switch to buffer
C-x C-b	List all buffers
C-x k	Kill (close) buffer
C-x LEFT / RIGHT	Previous / next buffer

Windows

C-x 2	Split window horizontally
C-x 3	Split window vertically
C-x 0	Close current window
C-x 1	Close all other windows
C-x o	Switch to other window
C-x ^	Grow window vertically
C-x {	Shrink window horizontally

Frames

C-x 5 2	Create new frame
C-x 5 0	Delete current frame
C-x 5 o	Switch to other frame

Search & Replace

Incremental Search

C-s	Search forward (incremental)
C-r	Search backward (incremental)
C-s C-s	Repeat last search forward
C-M-s	Regex search forward
C-M-r	Regex search backward
RET	Exit search at current position
C-g	Cancel search, return to start

Replace

M-%	Query replace
C-M-%	Query replace regexp
y	Replace this match
n	Skip this match
!	Replace all remaining
q	Quit replacing

Files

File Operations

C-x C-f	Find (open) file
C-x C-s	Save current buffer
C-x C-w	Save as (write to new file)
C-x s	Save all modified buffers
C-x C-r	Open file read-only
C-x i	Insert file contents at point

Dired (Directory Editor)

C-x d	Open directory in Dired
d / x	Flag for deletion / execute deletions
R	Rename / move file
C	Copy file
+	Create directory
g	Refresh listing

Modes

Major Modes

M-x fundamental-mode	Plain text editing
M-x text-mode	Text with fill and spelling
M-x prog-mode	Base for programming modes
M-x python-mode	Python editing and indentation
M-x shell-mode	Interactive shell in buffer

Useful Minor Modes

M-x display-line-numbers-mode	Toggle line numbers
M-x auto-fill-mode	Auto-wrap at fill column
M-x flyspell-mode	On-the-fly spell checking
M-x column-number-mode	Show column in mode line
M-x whitespace-mode	Visualize whitespace
M-x electric-pair-mode	Auto-close brackets and quotes

Org Mode Basics

Structure

* / ** / ***	Heading levels 1 / 2 / 3
TAB	Cycle heading visibility
S-TAB	Cycle global visibility
M-RET	Insert heading at same level
M-LEFT / M-RIGHT	Promote / demote heading
M-UP / M-DOWN	Move subtree up / down

TODO & Checkboxes

C-c C-t	Cycle TODO state
C-c C-d	Set deadline
C-c C-s	Schedule item
C-c C-c	Toggle checkbox [] / [X]
C-c a	Open agenda view

Links & Export

C-c C-l	Insert / edit link
C-c C-o	Open link at point
C-c C-e	Export dispatcher (HTML, PDF, etc.)

Package Management

package.el

M-x list-packages	Browse available packages
i / d / x	Mark install / delete / execute
U	Mark all upgradable
M-x package-refresh-contents	Refresh package list

use-package (init.el)

```
(use-package magit
  :ensure t
  :bind ("C-x g" . magit-status))
(use-package company
  :ensure t
  :hook (prog-mode . company-mode))
```

Configuration

Key Config Files

~/.emacs.d/init.el	Main configuration file
~/.emacs.d/early-init.el	Early init (before GUI, Emacs 27+)
~/.emacs.d/custom.el	Customize-written settings

Common Settings

```
(setq inhibit-startup-screen t)
(tool-bar-mode -1)
(set-face-attribute 'default nil :height 120)
(global-display-line-numbers-mode 1)
(setq make-backup-files nil)
```

Help System

C-h k	Describe key binding
C-h f	Describe function
C-h v	Describe variable
C-h m	Describe current modes
C-h t	Open Emacs tutorial
C-h i	Open Info documentation

Common Patterns

Rectangle Editing

C-x SPC	Start rectangle mark mode
C-x r k	Kill rectangle
C-x r y	Yank rectangle
C-x r t	Replace rectangle with string
C-x r o	Insert blank rectangle

Macros

C-x (Start recording macro
C-x)	Stop recording macro
C-x e	Execute last macro
C-u 10 C-x e	Execute macro 10 times
M-x name-last-kbd-macro	Name macro for reuse

Emacs Quick Reference

Shell & Eval

M-x shell	Open shell in buffer
M-x eshell	Emacs Lisp shell
M-!	Run shell command
M-x eval-buffer	Evaluate entire buffer as Elisp
C-x C-e	Evaluate Elisp expression before point