

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

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