

# Emacs Key Combinations

Note that C-x means Control-X while M-x means Meta-X where meta may mean hitting and releasing the escape key, or alt. These keys are excerpted from the Unix in a Nutshell book. The first column has their default key binding; the second their function name; last is a short description.

## 1. File Handling Commands

C-x C-f	find-file	Find a file and read it to screen.
C-x C-v	find-alternate-file	Read a different file.
C-x i	insert-file	Insert a file at the cursors position.
C-x C-s	save-buffer	Save the current buffer.
C-x C-w	write-file	Write the contents of the buffer to a file.
C-x C-c	save-buffers-kill-emacs	Save all open buffers and get out of emacs.
C-z	suspend-emacs	Suspend emacs.

## 2. Cursor Movement Commands

C-f	forward-char	Move cursor one character.
C-b	backward-char	Move backward one character.
C-p	previous-line	Move up one line.
C-n	next-line	Move down one line.
M-f	forward-word	Move to the next word. (words are defined by whitespace/special characters.)
M-b	backward-word	Move to the previous word.
C-a	beginning-of-line	Move to the beginning of the line.
C-e	end-of-line	Move to the end of the line.
M-a	backward-sentence	Move back one sentence.
C-v	scroll-up	Scroll up one screen.
M-v	scroll-down	Scroll down one screen.
C-x [	backward-page	Go back one page.
C-x ]	forward-page	Go forward one page.
M->	end-of-buffer	Move to end of buffer.
M-<	beginning-of-buffer	Move to beginning of the current buffer.
C-l	recenter	Redraw the screen with the current line in the center.
M-(a number)	digit-argument	Do the next command (a number) of times.

## 3. Deletion Commands

Del	backward-delete-char	Delete the previous character.
C-d	delete-char	Delete the character under the cursor.
M-Del	backward-kill-word	Delete the previous word.
C-k	kill-line	Delete from the cursor to the end of line.
M-k	kill-sentence	Delete the sentence the cursor is in.
C-x Del	backward-kill-sentence	Delete the previous sentence.
C-y	yank	Restore deleted text at cursor.
C-w	kill-region	Delete a marked region.
	backward-kill-paragraph	Delete the previous paragraph.
	kill-paragraph	Delete from the cursor to the end of the paragraph.

## 4. Paragraphs and Regions

C-@	set-mark	Mark the beginning (or end) of a region.
C-Space	set-mark	Ibid.
C-x C-p	mark-page	Mark the current page.
C-x C-x	exchange-point-and-make	Exchange the location of the cursor and the mark.
C-x h	mark-whole-buffer	Mark the current buffer.
M-q	fill-paragraph	Reset the paragraph.
M-g	fill-region	Reformat individual paragraphs with region.
M-h	mark-paragraph	Mark select paragraph.

## 5. Stopping and Undoing Commands

C-g	keyboard-quit	Stop current command Now!
C-x u	advertised-undo	Undo the last edit (do it often)
	revert-buffer	Return the buffer to the state when last autosaved.

## 6. Transposition Commands

C-t	transpose-chars	Transpose the two letters.
M-t	transpose-words	Switch two words.
C-x C-t	transpose-lines	Switch two lines.
	transpose-sentences	Switch two sentences.
	transpose-paragraphs	Switch two paragraphs.

## 7. Capitalization Commands

M-c	capitalize-word	Capitalize the first letter of the current word.
M-u	upcase-word	Make the word all uppercase.
M-l	downcase-word	Make the word all lowercase.
C-x C-l	downcase-region	Make the region all lowercase.
C-x C-u	upcase-region	Make the region all uppercase.

## 8. Incremental Search Commands

C-s	isearch-forward	Start an incremental search forward.
C-r	isearch-backward	Starts an incremental search in the reverse direction.
Meta		Stop a successful search.
C-g	keyboard-quit	Stop searching and return to the starting point.
Del		Delete an incorrect character whilst searching.

## 9. Word Abbreviation Commands

	abbrev-mode	Enter abbreviation mode.
C-x -	inverse-add-global-abbrev	Type in a global abbreviation, then its meaning.
C-x C-h	inverse-add-local-abbrev	Type in a local abbreviation, then its meaning.
	unexpand-abbrev	Undo the last word abbreviation.
	write-abbrev-file	Write out the word abbreviation file.
	edit-abbrevs	Edit the current word abbreviations.
	list-abbrevs	View the current word abbreviations.
	kill-all-abbrevs	Kill any abbreviations for this session.

## 10. Buffer Manipulation Commands

C-x b	switch-to-buffer	Move to the specified buffer.
C-x C-b	list-buffers	Display the list of currently active buffers.
C-x k	kill-buffer	Kill the current buffer
	kill-some-buffers	Ask about deleting each buffer currently active.
	rename-buffer	Rename the current buffer to something else.
C-x s	save-some-buffers	Ask whether to save each modified buffer

## 11. Window Commands

C-x 2	split-window-horizontally	Divide the current window horizontally in two.
C-x 5	split-windows-vertically	Divide the current window vertically in two.
C-x >	scroll-right	Scroll the window right.
C-x <	scroll-left	Scroll the window left.
C-x 0	delete-window	Delete the current window.
C-x 1	delete-other-windows	Delete all the windows except this one.
	delete-windows-on	Delete all windows open to a particular buffer.
C-x ^	enlarge-window	Make the current window taller.
	shrink-window	Make the current window smaller.
C-x }	enlarge-window-horizontally	Make the window wider.
C-x {	shrink-window-horizontally	Make the window less wide.
M-C-v	scroll-other-window	Scroll the other window.
C-x 4 f	find-file-other-window	Find a file in the other window.
C-x 4 b	switch-to-buffer-other-window	Select a buffer in the other window.
	compare-windows	Compare two buffers and show the first difference.

## 12. Special Shell Characters

	shell	Start a shell.
C-c C-c	interrupt-shell-subjob	Terminate the current job in a shell.
C-c C-d	send-shell-eof	Send the EOF character (Ctrl-d)
C-c C-u	kill-shell-input	Erase the current line.
C-c C-w	backward-kill-word	Erase the previous word.
C-c C-z	stop-shell-subjob	Suspend the current shell job.

## 13. Indentation Commands

C-x	set-fill-prefix	Prepend each line in paragraph with characters from beginning of the line up to the current cursor column. cancel by doing this in column 1.
M-C-\	indent-region	Indent a region to match the first line in region.
M-m	back-to-indentation	Move the cursor to first character in line.
M-C-o	split-line	Split line at cursor into two lines... weird.
	fill-individual-paragraphs	Reformat indented paragraphs, keep indentation.

## 14. Centering Commands

M-s	center-line	Center the current line.
	center-paragraph	Center the paragraph that the cursor is on.
	center-region	Center the currently defined region.

## 15. Macro Commands

C-x (	start-kbd-macro	Start a new macro definition.
C-x )	end-kbd-macro	End the current macro definition.
C-x e	call-last-kbd-macro	Execute the last defined macro.
M-(number) C-x e	call-last-kbd-macro	Do that last macro (number times).
C-u C-x (	stat-kbd-macro	Execute last macro and add to it.
	name-last-kbd-macro	Name the last macro before saving it.
	insert-last-keyboard-macro	Insert the macro you made into a file.
	load-file	Load a file with macros in it.
C-x q	kbd-macro-query	Insert a query into a keyboard macro.
M-C-c	exit-recursive-edit	Get the hell out of a recursive edit.

## 16. Detail Information Help Commands

C-h a	command-apropos	What commands work like this...?
	apropos	What functions and variables work like this...?
C-h c	describe-key-briefly	What command does this key sequence do?
C-h b	describe-bindings	What are the key bindings for this buffer?
C-h k	describe-key	What command does this sequence do, and tell me about it.
C-h l	view-lossage	What are the last 100 characters typed?
C-h w	where-is	What is the key binding for this?
C-h f	describe-function	What does this function do?
C-h v	describe-variable	What is this variable?
C-h m	describe-mode	Tell me about this mode.
C-h s	describe-syntax	What is the syntax table for this buffer?

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