

XEmacs Reference Card

(for version 21.0+)

Starting Emacs

To enter XEmacs, just type its name: `xemacs`

To read in a file to edit, see Files, below.

Leaving Emacs

suspend Emacs (or iconify frame under X) `C-z`
exit Emacs permanently `C-x C-c`

Files

read a file into Emacs `C-x C-f`
save a file back to disk `C-x C-s`
save **all** files `C-x s`
insert contents of another file into this buffer `C-x i`
replace this file with the file you really want `C-x C-v`
write buffer to a specified file `C-x C-w`

Getting Help

The Help system is simple. Type `C-h` and follow the directions. If you are a first-time user, type `C-h t` for a **tutorial**.

quit Help window `q`
scroll Help window `space`
apropos: show commands matching a string `C-h a`
show the function a key runs `C-h c`
describe a function `C-h f`
get mode-specific information `C-h m`

Error Recovery

abort partially typed or executing command `C-g`
recover a file lost by a system crash `M-x recover-file`
recover files from a previous Emacs session `M-x recover-session`
undo an unwanted change `C-x u` or `C-_`
restore a buffer to its original contents `M-x revert-buffer`
redraw garbaged screen `C-l`

Incremental Search

search forward `C-s`
search backward `C-r`
regular expression search `C-M-s`
reverse regular expression search `C-M-r`
select previous search string `M-p`
select next later search string `M-n`
exit incremental search `RET`
undo effect of last character `DEL`
abort current search `C-g`

Use `C-s` or `C-r` again to repeat the search in either direction. If Emacs is still searching, `C-g` cancels only the part not done.

Motion

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| entity to move over | backward | forward |
| character <code>C-b</code> | <code>C-f</code> | |
| word <code>M-b</code> | <code>M-f</code> | |
| line <code>C-p</code> | <code>C-n</code> | |
| go to line beginning (or end) <code>C-a</code> | <code>C-e</code> | |
| sentence <code>M-a</code> | <code>M-e</code> | |
| paragraph <code>M-{</code> | <code>M-}</code> | |
| page <code>C-x [</code> | <code>C-x]</code> | |
| sexp <code>C-M-b</code> | <code>C-M-f</code> | |
| function <code>C-M-a</code> | <code>C-M-e</code> | |
| go to buffer beginning (or end) <code>M-<</code> | <code>M-></code> | |
| scroll to next screen <code>C-v</code> | | |
| scroll to previous screen <code>M-v</code> | | |
| scroll left <code>C-x <</code> | | |
| scroll right <code>C-x ></code> | | |
| scroll current line to center of screen <code>C-u C-l</code> | | |

Killing and Deleting

| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| entity to kill | backward | forward |
| character (delete, not kill) <code>DEL</code> | <code>C-d</code> | |
| word <code>M-DEL</code> | <code>M-d</code> | |
| line (to end of) <code>M-O C-k</code> | <code>C-k</code> | |
| sentence <code>C-x DEL</code> | <code>M-k</code> | |
| sexp <code>M-- C-M-k</code> | <code>C-M-k</code> | |
| kill region <code>C-w</code> | | |
| copy region to kill ring <code>M-w</code> | | |
| kill through next occurrence of <i>char</i> <code>M-z char</code> | | |
| yank back last thing killed <code>C-y</code> | | |
| replace last yank with previous kill <code>M-y</code> | | |

Marking

set mark here `C-@` or `C-SPC`
exchange point and mark `C-x C-x`
set mark *arg* **words** away `M-@`
mark **paragraph** `M-h`
mark **page** `C-x C-p`
mark **sexp** `C-M-@`
mark **function** `C-M-h`
mark entire **buffer** `C-x h`

Query Replace

interactively replace a text string `M-%`
using regular expressions `M-x query-replace-regex`
Valid responses in query-replace mode are
replace this one, go on to next `SPC` or `y`
replace this one, don't move `,`
skip to next without replacing `DEL` or `n`
replace all remaining matches `!`
back up to the previous match `~`
exit query-replace `ESC`
enter recursive edit (`C-M-c` to exit) `C-r`
delete match and enter recursive edit `C-w`

Multiple Windows

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| delete all other windows | <code>C-x 1</code> |
| delete this window | <code>C-x 0</code> |
| split window in two vertically | <code>C-x 2</code> |
| split window in two horizontally | <code>C-x 3</code> |
| scroll other window | <code>C-M-v</code> |
| switch cursor to another window | <code>C-x o</code> |
| shrink window shorter | <code>M-x shrink-window</code> |
| grow window taller | <code>C-x ^</code> |
| shrink window narrower | <code>C-x {</code> |
| grow window wider | <code>C-x }</code> |
| select buffer in other window | <code>C-x 4 b</code> |
| display buffer in other window | <code>C-x 4 C-o</code> |
| find file in other window | <code>C-x 4 f</code> |
| find file read-only in other window | <code>C-x 4 r</code> |
| run Dired in other window | <code>C-x 4 d</code> |
| find tag in other window | <code>C-x 4 .</code> |

Formatting

indent current **line** (mode-dependent) `TAB`
indent **region** (mode-dependent) `C-M-\`
indent **sexp** (mode-dependent) `C-M-q`
indent region rigidly *arg* columns `C-x TAB`
insert newline after point `C-o`
move rest of line vertically down `C-M-o`
delete blank lines around point `C-x C-o`
join line with previous (with *arg*, next) `M-^`
delete all white space around point `M-\`
put exactly one space at point `M-SPC`
fill paragraph `M-q`
set fill column `C-x f`
set prefix each line starts with `C-x .`

Case Change

uppercase word `M-u`
lowercase word `M-l`
capitalize word `M-c`
uppercase region `C-x C-u`
lowercase region `C-x C-l`
capitalize region `M-x capitalize-region`

The Minibuffer

The following keys are defined in the minibuffer.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| complete as much as possible | <code>TAB</code> |
| complete up to one word | <code>SPC</code> |
| complete and execute | <code>RET</code> |
| show possible completions | <code>?</code> |
| fetch previous minibuffer input | <code>M-p</code> |
| fetch next later minibuffer input | <code>M-n</code> |
| regexp search backward through history | <code>M-r</code> |
| regexp search forward through history | <code>M-s</code> |
| abort command | <code>C-g</code> |

Type `C-x ESC ESC` to edit and repeat the last command that used the minibuffer. The following keys are then defined.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| previous minibuffer command | <code>M-p</code> |
| next minibuffer command | <code>M-n</code> |

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Buffers

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| select another buffer | C-x b |
| list all buffers | C-x C-b |
| kill a buffer | C-x k |

Transposing

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| transpose characters | C-t |
| transpose words | M-t |
| transpose lines | C-x C-t |
| transpose sexps | C-M-t |

Spelling Check

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| check spelling of current word | M-\$ |
| check spelling of all words in region | M-x ispell-region |
| check spelling of entire buffer | M-x ispell-buffer |

Tags

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| find a tag (a definition) | M-. |
| find next occurrence of tag | C-u M-. |
| specify a new tags file | M-x visit-tags-table |
| regexp search on all files in tags table | M-x tags-search |
| run query-replace on all the files | M-x tags-query-replace |
| continue last tags search or query-replace | M-, |

Shells

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| execute a shell command | M-! |
| run a shell command on the region | M- |
| filter region through a shell command | C-u M- |
| start a shell in window *shell* | M-x shell |

Rectangles

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| copy rectangle to register | C-x r r |
| kill rectangle | C-x r k |
| yank rectangle | C-x r y |
| open rectangle, shifting text right | C-x r o |
| blank out rectangle | M-x clear-rectangle |
| prefix each line with a string | M-x string-rectangle |
| select rectangle with mouse | M-button1 |

Abbrevs

| | |
|--|-----------|
| add global abbrev | C-x a g |
| add mode-local abbrev | C-x a l |
| add global expansion for this abbrev | C-x a i g |
| add mode-local expansion for this abbrev | C-x a i l |
| explicitly expand abbrev | C-x a e |
| expand previous word dynamically | M-/ |

Regular Expressions

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| any single character except a newline | . | (dot) |
| zero or more repeats | * | |
| one or more repeats | + | |
| zero or one repeat | ? | |
| any character in the set | [...] | |
| any character not in the set | [^ ...] | |
| beginning of line | ^ | |
| end of line | \$ | |
| quote a special character <i>c</i> | \c | |
| alternative (“or”) | | |
| grouping | \(... \) | |
| <i>n</i> th group | \n | |
| beginning of buffer | \‘ | |
| end of buffer | \’ | |
| word break | \b | |
| not beginning or end of word | \B | |
| beginning of word | \< | |
| end of word | \> | |
| any word-syntax character | \w | |
| any non-word-syntax character | \W | |
| character with syntax <i>c</i> | \sc | |
| character with syntax not <i>c</i> | \Sc | |

Registers

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| save region in register | C-x r s |
| insert register contents into buffer | C-x r i |
| save value of point in register | C-x r SPC |
| jump to point saved in register | C-x r j |

Info

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| enter the Info documentation reader | C-h i | |
| Moving within a node: | | |
| scroll forward | SPC | |
| scroll reverse | DEL | |
| beginning of node | . | (dot) |
| Moving between nodes: | | |
| next node | n | |
| previous node | p | |
| move up | u | |
| select menu item by name | m | |
| select <i>n</i> th menu item by number (1-5) | n | |
| follow cross reference (return with l) | f | |
| return to last node you saw | l | |
| return to directory node | d | |
| go to any node by name | g | |
| Other: | | |
| run Info tutorial | h | |
| list Info commands | ? | |
| quit Info | q | |
| search nodes for regexp | s | |

Keyboard Macros

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| start defining a keyboard macro | C-x (|
| end keyboard macro definition | C-x) |
| execute last-defined keyboard macro | C-x e |
| edit keyboard macro | C-x C-k |
| append to last keyboard macro | C-u C-x (|
| name last keyboard macro | M-x name-last-kbd-macro |
| insert Lisp definition in buffer | M-x insert-kbd-macro |

Commands Dealing with Emacs Lisp

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| eval sexp before point | C-x C-e |
| eval current defun | C-M-x |
| eval region | M-x eval-region |
| eval entire buffer | M-x eval-current-buffer |
| read and eval minibuffer | M-ESC |
| re-execute last minibuffer command | C-x ESC ESC |
| read and eval Emacs Lisp file | M-x load-file |
| load from standard system directory | M-x load-library |

Simple Customization

Here are some examples of binding global keys in Emacs Lisp.

```
(global-set-key [(control c) g] 'goto-line)
(global-set-key [(control x) (control k)] 'kill-region)
(global-set-key [(meta #)] 'query-replace-regexp)
```

An example of setting a variable in Emacs Lisp:

```
(setq backup-by-copying-when-linked t)
```

Writing Commands

```
(defun command-name (args)
  "documentation"
  (interactive "template")
  body)
```

An example:

```
(defun this-line-to-top-of-window (line)
  "Reposition line point is on to top of window.
With ARG, put point on line ARG.
Negative counts from bottom."
  (interactive "P")
  (recenter (if (null line)
                0
                (prefix-numeric-value line))))
```

The argument to `interactive` is a string specifying how to get the arguments when the function is called interactively. Type `C-h f interactive` for more information.

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