GNU Emacs Reference Card

(for version 26)

Starting Emacs

To enter GNU Emacs 26, just type its name: `emacs`

Leaving Emacs

suspend Emacs (or iconify it 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`
toggle read-only status of buffer	`C-x C-q`

Getting Help

The help system is simple. Type `C-h` (or `F1`) and follow the directions. If you are a first-time user, type `C-h t` for a **tutorial**.

remove help window	`C-x 1`
scroll help window	`C-M-v`
apropos: show commands matching a string	`C-h a`
describe the function a key runs	`C-h k`
describe a function	`C-h f`
get mode-specific information	`C-h m`

Error Recovery

abort partially typed or executing command	`C-g`
recover files lost by a system crash	`M-x recover-session`
undo an unwanted change	`C-x u`, `C-_` 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 matched.

Motion

entity to move over	**backward**	**forward**
character	`C-b`	`C-f`
word	`M-b`	`M-f`
line	`C-p`	`C-n`
go to line beginning (or end)	`C-a`	`C-e`
sentence	`M-a`	`M-e`
paragraph	`M-{`	`M-}`
page	`C-x [`	`C-x ]`
sexp	`C-M-b`	`C-M-f`
function	`C-M-a`	`C-M-e`
go to buffer beginning (or end)	`M-<`	`M->`

scroll to next screen	`C-v`
scroll to previous screen	`M-v`
scroll left	`C-x <`
scroll right	`C-x >`
scroll current line to center, top, bottom	`C-l`
goto line	`M-g g`
goto char	`M-g c`
back to indentation	`M-m`

Killing and Deleting

entity to kill	**backward**	**forward**
character (delete, not kill)	`DEL`	`C-d`
word	`M-DEL`	`M-d`
line (to end of)	`M-0 C-k`	`C-k`
sentence	`C-x DEL`	`M-k`
sexp	`M-- C-M-k`	`C-M-k`

kill **region**	`C-w`
copy region to kill ring	`M-w`
kill through next occurrence of *char*	`M-z` *char*
yank back last thing killed	`C-y`
replace last yank with previous kill	`M-y`

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-regexp`

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	`RET`
enter recursive edit (`C-M-c` to exit)	`C-r`

Multiple Windows

When two commands are shown, the second is a similar command for a frame instead of a window.

delete all other windows	`C-x 1`	`C-x 5 1`
split window, above and below	`C-x 2`	`C-x 5 2`
delete this window	`C-x 0`	`C-x 5 0`
split window, side by side	`C-x 3`	
scroll other window	`C-M-v`	
switch cursor to another window	`C-x o`	`C-x 5 o`
select buffer in other window	`C-x 4 b`	`C-x 5 b`
display buffer in other window	`C-x 4 C-o`	`C-x 5 C-o`
find file in other window	`C-x 4 f`	`C-x 5 f`
find file read-only in other window	`C-x 4 r`	`C-x 5 r`
run Dired in other window	`C-x 4 d`	`C-x 5 d`
find tag in other window	`C-x 4 .`	`C-x 5 .`
grow window taller	`C-x ^`	
shrink window narrower	`C-x {`	
grow window wider	`C-x }`	

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`
indent for comment	`M-;`
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 to *arg*	`C-x f`
set prefix each line starts with	`C-x .`
set face	`M-o`

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`

The Minibuffer

The following keys are defined in the minibuffer.

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

Type `C-x ESC ESC` to edit and repeat the last command that used the minibuffer. Type `F10` to activate menu bar items on text terminals.

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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`
toggle on-the-fly spell checking	`M-x flyspell-mode`

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-!`
execute a shell command asynchronously	`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	`C-x r c`
prefix each line with a string	`C-x r t`

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-/`

Miscellaneous

numeric argument	`C-u` *num*
negative argument	`M--`
quoted insert	`C-q` *char*

Regular Expressions

any single character except a newline	`.` (dot)
zero or more repeats	`*`
one or more repeats	`+`
zero or one repeat	`?`
quote special characters	`\`
quote regular expression special character *c*	`\`*c*
alternative ("or")	`\\|`
grouping	`\( ... \)`
shy grouping	`\(:?  ... \)`
explicit numbered grouping	`\(:NUM ... \)`
same text as *n*th group	`\`*n*
at word break	`\b`
not at word break	`\B`

entity	**match start**	**match end**
line	`^`	`$`
word	`\<`	`\>`
symbol	`\_<`	`\_>`
buffer	``\` ``	`\'`
class of characters	**match these**	**match others**
explicit set	`[ ... ]`	`[^ ... ]`
word-syntax character	`\w`	`\W`
character with syntax *c*	`\s`*c*	`\S`*c*
character with category *c*	`\c`*c*	`\C`*c*

International Character Sets

specify principal language	`C-x RET l`
show all input methods	`M-x list-input-methods`
enable or disable input method	`C-\`
set coding system for next command	`C-x RET c`
show all coding systems	`M-x list-coding-systems`
choose preferred coding system	`M-x prefer-coding-system`

Info

enter the Info documentation reader	`C-h i`
find specified function or variable in Info	`C-h S`

Moving within a node:

scroll forward	`SPC`
scroll reverse	`DEL`
beginning of node	`b`

Moving between nodes:

next node	`n`
previous node	`p`
move **up**	`u`
select menu item by name	`m`
select *n*th menu item by number (1–9)	*n*
follow cross reference (return with `l`)	`f`
return to last node you saw	`l`
return to directory node	`d`
go to top node of Info file	`t`
go to any node by name	`g`

Other:

run Info **tutorial**	`h`
look up a subject in the indices	`i`
search nodes for regexp	`s`
quit Info	`q`

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`

Keyboard Macros

start defining a keyboard macro	`C-x (`
end keyboard macro definition	`C-x )`
execute last-defined keyboard macro	`C-x e`
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`
read and eval minibuffer	`M-:`
load a Lisp library from **load-path**	`M-x load-library`

Simple Customization

customize variables and faces	`M-x customize`

Making global key bindings in Emacs Lisp (example):

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c g") 'search-forward)
(global-set-key (kbd "M-#") 'query-replace-regexp)
```

Writing Commands

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

An example:

```
(defun this-line-to-top-of-window (line)
  "Reposition current line to top of window.
With prefix argument LINE, put point on LINE."
  (interactive "P")
  (recenter (if (null line)
                0
              (prefix-numeric-value line))))
```

The `interactive` spec says how to read arguments interactively. Type `C-h f interactive RET` for more details.

For GNU Emacs version 26
Designed by Stephen Gildea

For more Emacs documentation, and the TeX source for this card, see the Emacs distribution, or `https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs`