GNU Emacs Reference Card

(for version 22)

Starting Emacs

To enter GNU Emacs 22, 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 done.

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 of screen	`C-u C-l`

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`
replace this one, don't move	`,`
skip to next without replacing	`DEL`
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`
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 .`
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 the menu bar using the minibuffer.

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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	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-/

Regular Expressions

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

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

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 from standard system directory	M-x load-library

Simple Customization

customize variables and faces	M-x customize

Making global key bindings in Emacs Lisp (examples):

```
(global-set-key "\C-cg" 'goto-line)
(global-set-key "\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 line point is on to top of window.
With ARG, put point on line ARG."
  (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` for more details.