

CS 151 Emacs Quick Reference Guide

Key: **C-x** means hold down the **Control** (or **Ctrl**) key while pressing **x**
M-x means press and release the **ESC** key and then press **x**
M-x can usually also be performed by holding down the **Alt** key while pressing **x**

To start Emacs, just type its name at the Linux shell prompt: **emacs**

To run Emacs in the background, type: **emacs &**

General

suspend Emacs (or iconify it under X)	C-z
exit Emacs permanently	C-x C-c
start the Emacs tutorial	C-h t
run a Linux command-line shell inside Emacs	M-x shell
select a different font	Shift-LeftMouse

Files

open an existing file or start a new one	C-x C-f
save the file in the current buffer back to disk	C-x C-s
save all currently open buffers to disk	C-x s
insert contents of another file into current buffer	C-x i
write current buffer to a specified file	C-x C-w
switch to another buffer	C-LeftMouse

Error Recovery

abort a partially typed or executing command	C-g
undo an unwanted change	C-/ or C-_
refresh screen	C-l (lowercase L)

Moving Around

entity to move over	backward	forward
character	C-b or LeftArrow	C-f or RightArrow
word	M-b	M-f
line	C-p or UpArrow	C-n or DownArrow
go to beginning or end of line	C-a or Home	C-e or End
go to beginning or end of buffer	M-< or C-Home	M-> or C-End
scroll to next screen		C-v or PageDown
scroll to previous screen		M-v or PageUp
position current line at center of screen		C-l (lowercase L)
scroll left		C-x < or C-PageDown
scroll right		C-x > or C-PageUp

Searching

search forward incrementally	C-s
search backwards incrementally	C-r
exit current incremental search	Return
abort current search	C-g
Use C-s or C-r again to repeat the same search.	
interactively replace a text string	M-%
Valid responses in interactive mode:	
replace this one, go on to next	y or Space
skip this one, go on to next	n or Delete
exit interactive mode	q or Return

Deleting and Killing

delete characters backwards
delete characters forwards
kill to the end of the current line
set mark here
cancel current mark
mark entire buffer (select all)
copy marked region to kill buffer (copy)
kill current marked region (cut)
yank back last thing killed (paste)

Backspace
C-d or **Delete**
C-k
C-Space
C-g
C-x h
M-w
C-w
C-y

Multiple Windows

split current window horizontally
split current window vertically
close current window
close all other windows
switch cursor to another window
make window taller
make window narrower
make window wider

C-x 2
C-x 3
C-x 0
C-x 1
C-x o (lowercase O)
C-x ^
C-x {
C-x }

Formatting

indent current line
delete all white space around cursor
delete all but one space around cursor
make rest of word uppercase
make rest of word lowercase
comment out marked region of Python code
uncomment marked region of Python code
shift marked Python code left
shift marked Python code right

Tab
M-
M-Space
M-u
M-l (lowercase L)
C-c c
C-c u
C-c <
C-c >

Minibuffer Commands

complete as much of the current input as possible
show possible completions
abort current command

Tab
?
C-g

Keyboard Macros

start defining a keyboard macro
end keyboard macro definition
execute last-defined keyboard macro
execute keyboard macro *n* times

C-x (
C-x)
C-x e
C-u n C-x e

Psychotherapy

visit the Doctor

M-x doctor