

# GNU Emacs Reference Card

(for version 24)

## Starting Emacs

To enter GNU Emacs 24, 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.

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## Motion

entity to move over	backward	forward
character	<b>C-b</b>	<b>C-f</b>
word	<b>M-b</b>	<b>M-f</b>
line	<b>C-p</b>	<b>C-n</b>
go to line beginning (or end)	<b>C-a</b>	<b>C-e</b>
sentence	<b>M-a</b>	<b>M-e</b>
paragraph	<b>M-{</b>	<b>M-}</b>
page	<b>C-x [</b>	<b>C-x ]</b>
sexp	<b>C-M-b</b>	<b>C-M-f</b>
function	<b>C-M-a</b>	<b>C-M-e</b>
go to buffer beginning (or end)	<b>M-&lt;</b>	<b>M-&gt;</b>
scroll to next screen		<b>C-v</b>
scroll to previous screen		<b>M-v</b>
scroll left		<b>C-x &lt;</b>
scroll right		<b>C-x &gt;</b>
scroll current line to center, top, bottom		<b>C-l</b>
goto line		<b>M-g g</b>
goto char		<b>M-g c</b>
back to indentation		<b>M-m</b>

## Killing and Deleting

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

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

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

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.