

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 letter 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 letter 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
Use C-s or C-r again to repeat the same search.	
exit current incremental search	Return
abort current search	C-g
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	Backspace
delete characters forwards	C-d or Delete

kill to the end of the current line	C-k
set mark here	C-Space
cancel current mark	C-g
mark entire buffer (select all)	C-x h
copy marked region to kill buffer (copy)	M-w
kill current marked region (cut)	C-w
yank back last thing killed (paste)	C-y

Multiple Windows

split current window horizontally	C-x 2
split current window vertically	C-x 3
close current window	C-x 0
close all other windows	C-x 1
switch cursor to another window	C-x o (lowercase letter O)
make window taller	C-x ^
make window narrower	C-x {
make window wider	C-x }

Formatting

indent current line	Tab
delete all white space around cursor	M-\
delete all but one space around cursor	M-Space
make rest of word uppercase	M-u
make rest of word lowercase	M-l (lowercase letter L)
comment out marked region of Python code	C-c c
uncomment marked region of Python code	C-c u
shift marked Python code left	C-c <
shift marked Python code right	C-c >

Minibuffer Commands

complete as much of the current input as possible	Tab
show possible completions	?
abort current command	C-g

Keyboard Macros

start defining a keyboard macro	C-x (
end keyboard macro definition	C-x)
execute last-defined keyboard macro	C-x e
execute keyboard macro <i>n</i> times	C-u n C-x e