Emacs Extensible text editor

START HERE

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **F**
Open a file

Ctrl + **H** › **k**
What does this key do?

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **S**
Save the buffer

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **C**
Quit Emacs

Ctrl + **G**
Cancel anything

Alt + **X**
Run a command by name

Ctrl + **S**
Search forward

Ctrl + **/**
Undo

Frame the OS window
Window a view onto one buffer
Buffer text, maybe a file; point is the cursor

CONCEPTS

Emacs writes C-x as Ctrl+X and M-x as Alt+X (Meta). A space separates steps: Ctrl+X Ctrl+F means press Ctrl+X, release, then Ctrl+F.

No Alt key (terminal, macOS)? Press Esc, release, then the key: Esc x is Alt+X. On macOS set Option as Meta in your terminal.

Buffers hold the text, windows only show them. Closing a window (Ctrl+X 0) does not kill its buffer.

FILES & BUFFERS

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **F**
Open or create a file
Naming a directory opens Dired.

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **S**
Save buffer

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **C**
Quit Emacs

Ctrl + **X** › **B** Switch buffer

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **B**
List all buffers

Ctrl + **X** › **K** Kill a buffer

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **W**
Save as another file

FILES & BUFFERS (cont.)

Ctrl + **X** › **S**
Save all modified buffers

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **Q**
Toggle read-only
In Dired it edits file names as text; Ctrl+C Ctrl+C applies.

Alt + **X** › **revert-buffer**
Reload file from disk

WINDOWS

Ctrl + **X** › **2**
Split top / bottom

Ctrl + **X** › **3**
Split side by side

Ctrl + **X** › **O**
Go to other window

Ctrl + **X** › **1**
Keep only this window

Ctrl + **X** › **0**
Close this window

Ctrl + **Alt** + **V**
Scroll the other window

MOVEMENT

Ctrl + **F** / **Ctrl** + **B**
Char forward / back

Ctrl + **N** / **Ctrl** + **P**
Next / previous line

MOVEMENT (cont.)

Ctrl + **A** / **Ctrl** + **E**
Line start / end

Alt + **F** / **Alt** + **B**
Word forward / back

Ctrl + **V** / **Alt** + **V**
Page down / up

Alt + **<** / **Alt** + **>**
Buffer start / end

Alt + **G** › **G** Go to line

KILL & YANK

Ctrl + **K** Kill to end of line

Ctrl + **W** Kill region (cut)

Alt + **W** Copy region

Ctrl + **Y** Yank (paste)

Alt + **Y**
Replace yank with older kill
Only directly after Ctrl+Y; repeat to cycle the kill ring.

Alt + **D** Kill word forward

Alt + **Backspace**
Kill word backward

MARK & REGION

Ctrl + **Space** Set the mark
Mark to point is the region. On some terminals use Ctrl+@.

MARK & REGION (cont.)

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **X**
Swap point and mark

Ctrl + **X** › **H**
Select whole buffer

Alt + **H** Mark paragraph

Ctrl + **U** › **Ctrl** + **Space**
Jump back to previous mark
Repeat to walk the mark ring.

SEARCH & REPLACE

Ctrl + **S** Search forward
Press again for the next match; Enter stops, Ctrl+G returns to start.

Ctrl + **R** Search backward

Alt + **%** Query replace

Space / **y**
Replace this, go on

n / **Backspace** Skip this one

! Replace all remaining

Alt + **X** › **occur**
List matching lines

UNDO & CANCEL

Ctrl + **G**
Abort the current command

Ctrl + **/** Undo
Also Ctrl+X U or Ctrl+_. Repeat to undo further.

RECTANGLES & REGISTERS

Ctrl + **X** › **R** › **T**
Prefix each line with text

KEYBOARD MACROS

Ctrl + **X** › **(**
Start recording macro

Ctrl + **X** › **)** Stop recording

Ctrl + **X** › **E** Run last macro
Then press e to repeat; Ctrl+U 0 Ctrl+X E runs it until an error.

COMMANDS & HELP

Alt + **X**
Run command by name

Ctrl + **H** › **t**
Open the tutorial

Ctrl + **H** › **k** Describe a key

Ctrl + **H** › **f**
Describe a function

Ctrl + **H** › **a**
Apropos: find commands by word

DIRED

Ctrl + **X** › **D**
Open a directory in Dired

DIRED (cont.)

Ctrl + **X** › **Ctrl** + **J**
Dired of this file's folder

Enter Open file or folder

m / **u** Mark / unmark file

d Flag file for deletion

x Delete flagged files

RECIPES

Comment out a block with a rectangle

```
# mark start of first line,
move to last line start
Ctrl+Space
Ctrl+X R T  ;; prompt: type ';;
' and Enter
```

Rename every foo to bar, ask each time

```
Alt+<
Alt+%
foo Enter bar Enter
# y / n each match, ! for the
rest
```

Edit a macro 100 times over lines

```
Ctrl+X (   # record on the
first line
Ctrl+A ... edit ... Ctrl+N
Ctrl+X )
Ctrl+U 100 Ctrl+X E
```

Tidy a copied block of code

```
Ctrl+X H
Ctrl+Alt+\
Ctrl+X Ctrl+S
```