Emacs Extensible text editor

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.

FILES & BUFFERS

Ctrl + X › Ctrl + F
Open or create a file

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

WINDOWS

Ctrl + X › 2
Split top / bottom

WINDOWS (cont.)

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

MOVEMENT

Ctrl + F / Ctrl + B
Char forward / back

Ctrl + N / Ctrl + P
Next / previous line

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)

KILL & YANK (cont.)

Alt + Y
Replace yank with older kill

Alt + D Kill word forward

Alt + Backspace
Kill word backward

MARK & REGION

Ctrl + Space
Set the mark

Ctrl + X › Ctrl + X
Swap point and mark

Ctrl + X › H
Select whole buffer

Ctrl + U › Ctrl + Space
Jump back to previous mark

SEARCH & REPLACE

Ctrl + S Search forward

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

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

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

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
```