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

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

MOVEMENT (cont.)

Alt + < / Alt + >
Buffer start / end

Alt + G › G Go to line

Alt + M Back to first non-blank

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

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
```