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

MOVEMENT (cont.)

Ctrl + N / Ctrl + P
Next / previous line

Ctrl + A / Ctrl + E
Line start / end

Alt + F / Alt + B
Word forward / back

KILL & YANK

Ctrl + K
Kill to end of line

Ctrl + W
Kill region (cut)

Alt + W
Copy region

Ctrl + Y
Yank (paste)

MARK & REGION

Ctrl + Space
Set the mark

SEARCH & REPLACE

Ctrl + S
Search forward

Ctrl + R
Search backward

Alt + %
Query replace

UNDO & CANCEL

Ctrl + G
Abort the current command

Ctrl + /
Undo

COMMANDS & HELP

Alt + X
Run command by name

Ctrl + H › k
Describe a key