tmux Terminal multiplexer

Prefix key `Ctrl+b`

START HERE

`tmux new -s <name>`
Start a named session

`prefix` **z**
Zoom a pane

`prefix` **d**
Detach, keep it running

`prefix` **[**
Scroll back / copy

`tmux a -t <name>`
Attach again

`prefix` **c**
New window

`prefix` **%**
Split left / right

`prefix` **"**
Split top / bottom

Session survives detach
Window full-screen tab
Pane one shell in a split

Target syntax (-t)

Target	Means
`dev`	session dev
`dev:2`	window 2 of dev
`dev:2.1`	pane 1 of that window



prefix % then prefix " in pane 2

CONCEPTS

Shortcuts marked prefix: press Ctrl+b, release, then press the key.

Sessions keep running after you close the terminal or lose your SSH connection.

Inside a nested tmux (e.g. over SSH) press the prefix twice to reach the inner one.

SESSIONS

`tmux new -s <name>`
New named session
Without -s the session is just numbered 0, 1, 2 ...

`tmux ls`
List sessions

`tmux a -t <name>`
Attach to session
tmux a on its own attaches to the most recent session.

`prefix` **d**
Detach from session
Programs inside keep running; reattach any time.

`prefix` **$** Rename session

SESSIONS (cont.)

`prefix` **s**
Choose session from list
Shows a live preview of each window; Enter switches.

`tmux kill-session -t <name>`
Kill session

`tmux new -As <name>`
Attach, or create if missing
Ideal for shell aliases: attaches if the session exists.

WINDOWS `prefix +`

c Create window
Starts in the session directory unless you bind it with -c.

n / **p**
Next / previous window

0-9 Jump to window number

w Choose window from list

, Rename window

l Last used window

& Close window

Tab / **Shift** + **Tab**
Fast window and session switcher (3.8+)

PANES `prefix +`

% Split left / right
Mnemonic: % looks like two panes side by side.

" Split top / bottom
Mnemonic: the two dots are stacked, one above the other.

Arrows Move between panes

z Zoom pane (toggle)
A Z appears in the status bar while zoomed; press again to restore.

x Close pane
Asks for confirmation (y/n) first.

o Cycle to next pane

!
Break pane into own window
Undo it with join-pane -s <window>.

Ctrl + **Arrow**
Resize pane (hold)
Repeat within about half a second without pressing the prefix again.

Space Cycle pane layouts
Cycles even-horizontal, even-vertical, main-horizontal, main-vertical, tiled (3.5+ adds mirrored main layouts).

q Show pane numbers

PANES (cont.) `prefix +`

{ / **}**
Swap pane with prev / next

PANE TRICKS `prefix +`

; Jump to last active pane
Toggles between your two most recently used panes.

***** New floating pane (3.7+)

E Spread panes evenly

Alt + **Arrow**
Resize pane in bigger steps

COPY MODE

`prefix` **[**
Enter copy / scroll mode
Scroll with PageUp/PageDown or the arrow keys; q leaves.

q Quit copy mode

Space Start selection (vi)

Enter
Copy selection and exit (vi)

`prefix` **]** Paste last buffer
Pastes tmux's own buffer, not the system clipboard; set -s set-clipboard on or copy-pipe to xclip reaches that.

COPY MODE (cont.)

/ / **?**
Search forward / backward (vi)

n / **N** Next / previous match

Copy mode uses emacs keys by default (vi if $EDITOR or $VISUAL contains vi). Add setw -g mode-keys vi for the vi keys shown here.

Copy mode keys: emacs vs vi

Action	emacs	vi
Select	`Ctrl+Space`	`Space`
Copy	`Alt+w`	`Enter`
Find down	`Ctrl+s`	`/`
Find up	`Ctrl+r`	`?`
Top / end	`Alt+< / Alt+>`	`g / G`
Quit	`Esc / q`	`q`

COMMAND MODE

`prefix` **:**
Open command prompt
The same commands as the tmux CLI, without the leading tmux.

`set -g mouse on`
Enable mouse support
On by default since 3.8. Click panes, drag borders, scroll; hold Shift (Option on macOS) to select text natively.

COMMAND MODE (cont.)

`source ~/.tmux.conf`
Reload configuration
Or ~/.config/tmux/tmux.conf if you use the XDG location.

`list-keys`
Show all key bindings

RECIPES

Starter ~/.tmux.conf

```
# ~/.tmux.conf
set -g mouse on
set -g history-limit 50000
set -g prefix C-a
unbind C-b
bind C-a send-prefix
set -g base-index 1
setw -g pane-base-index 1
set -g renumber-windows on
setw -g mode-keys vi
bind r source-file ~/.tmux.conf
\; display "reloaded"
bind | split-window -h -c
"#{pane_current_path}"
bind - split-window -v -c
"#{pane_current_path}"
```

HELP

`prefix` **?**
List all key bindings

`man tmux`
Full manual

`prefix` **t** Show clock