

# XEmacs Reference Card

(for version 21.0+)

## Starting Emacs

To enter XEmacs, just type its name: **xemacs**

To read in a file to edit, see Files, below.

## Leaving Emacs

suspend Emacs (or iconify frame under X) C-z  
exit Emacs permanently C-x C-c

## Files

**read** a file into Emacs C-x C-f  
**save** a file back to disk C-x C-s  
save **all** files C-x s  
**insert** contents of another file into this buffer C-x i  
replace this file with the file you really want C-x C-v  
write buffer to a specified file C-x C-w

## Getting Help

The Help system is simple. Type C-h and follow the directions. If you are a first-time user, type C-h t for a **tutorial**.

quit Help window q  
scroll Help window space  
apropos: show commands matching a string C-h a  
show the function a key runs C-h c  
describe a function C-h f  
get mode-specific information C-h m

## Error Recovery

**abort** partially typed or executing command C-g  
**recover** a file lost by a system crash M-x recover-file  
**recover** files from a previous Emacs session M-x recover-session  
**undo** an unwanted change C-x u or C-\_ **undo**  
restore a buffer to its original contents M-x revert-buffer  
redraw garbaged screen C-l

## Incremental Search

search forward C-s  
search backward C-r  
regular expression search C-M-s  
reverse regular expression search C-M-r  
select previous search string M-p  
select next later search string M-n  
exit incremental search RET  
undo effect of last character DEL  
abort current search C-g

Use C-s or C-r again to repeat the search in either direction. If Emacs is still searching, C-g cancels only the part not done.

## Motion

**entity to move over**  
character C-b  
word M-b  
line C-p  
go to line beginning (or end) C-a  
sentence M-a  
paragraph M-{  
page C-x [  
sexp C-M-b  
function C-M-a  
go to buffer beginning (or end) M-<  
scroll to next screen C-v  
scroll to previous screen M-v  
scroll left C-x <  
scroll right C-x >  
scroll current line to center of screen C-u C-l

## Killing and Deleting

**entity to kill**  
character (delete, not kill) DEL  
word M-DEL  
line (to end of) M-O C-k  
sentence C-x DEL  
sexp M-- C-M-k  
kill **region** C-w  
copy region to kill ring M-w  
kill through next occurrence of *char* M-z *char*  
yank back last thing killed C-y  
replace last yank with previous kill M-y

## Marking

set mark here C-@ or C-SPC  
exchange point and mark C-x C-x  
set mark *arg* **words** away M-@  
mark **paragraph** M-h  
mark **page** C-x C-p  
mark **sexp** C-M-@  
mark **function** C-M-h  
mark entire **buffer** C-x h

## Query Replace

interactively replace a text string M-%  
using regular expressions M-x query-replace-regexp  
Valid responses in query-replace mode are  
**replace** this one, go on to next SPC or y  
replace this one, don't move ,  
**skip** to next without replacing DEL or n  
replace all remaining matches !  
**back up** to the previous match ~  
**exit** query-replace ESC  
enter recursive edit (C-M-c to exit) C-r  
delete match and enter recursive edit C-w

## Multiple Windows

delete all other windows C-x 1  
delete this window C-x 0  
split window in two vertically C-x 2  
split window in two horizontally C-x 3  
scroll other window C-M-v  
switch cursor to another window C-x o  
shrink window shorter M-x shrink-window  
grow window taller C-x ^  
shrink window narrower C-x {  
grow window wider C-x }  
select buffer in other window C-x 4 b  
display buffer in other window C-x 4 C-o  
find file in other window C-x 4 f  
find file read-only in other window C-x 4 r  
run Dired in other window C-x 4 d  
find tag in other window C-x 4 .

## Formatting

indent current **line** (mode-dependent) TAB  
indent **region** (mode-dependent) C-M-\  
indent **sexp** (mode-dependent) C-M-q  
indent region rigidly *arg* columns C-x TAB  
insert newline after point C-o  
move rest of line vertically down C-M-o  
delete blank lines around point C-x C-o  
join line with previous (with *arg*, next) M-^  
delete all white space around point M-\  
put exactly one space at point M-SPC  
fill paragraph M-q  
set fill column C-x f  
set prefix each line starts with C-x .

## Case Change

uppercase word M-u  
lowercase word M-l  
capitalize word M-c  
uppercase region C-x C-u  
lowercase region C-x C-l  
capitalize region M-x capitalize-region

## The Minibuffer

The following keys are defined in the minibuffer.

complete as much as possible TAB  
complete up to one word SPC  
complete and execute RET  
show possible completions ?  
fetch previous minibuffer input M-p  
fetch next later minibuffer input M-n  
regexp search backward through history M-r  
regexp search forward through history M-s  
abort command C-g

Type C-x ESC ESC to edit and repeat the last command that used the minibuffer. The following keys are then defined.

previous minibuffer command M-p  
next minibuffer command M-n

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## Buffers

select another buffer	C-x b
list all buffers	C-x C-b
kill a buffer	C-x k

## Transposing

transpose <b>characters</b>	C-t
transpose <b>words</b>	M-t
transpose <b>lines</b>	C-x C-t
transpose <b>sexps</b>	C-M-t

## Spelling Check

check spelling of current word	M-\$
check spelling of all words in region	M-x ispell-region
check spelling of entire buffer	M-x ispell-buffer

## Tags

find a tag (a definition)	M-.
find next occurrence of tag	C-u M-.
specify a new tags file	M-x visit-tags-table
regexp search on all files in tags table	M-x tags-search
run query-replace on all the files	M-x tags-query-replace
continue last tags search or query-replace	M-,

## Shells

execute a shell command	M-!
run a shell command on the region	M-
filter region through a shell command	C-u M-
start a shell in window *shell*	M-x shell

## Rectangles

copy rectangle to register	C-x r r
kill rectangle	C-x r k
yank rectangle	C-x r y
open rectangle, shifting text right	C-x r o
blank out rectangle	M-x clear-rectangle
prefix each line with a string	M-x string-rectangle
select rectangle with mouse	M-button1

## Abbrevs

add global abbrev	C-x a g
add mode-local abbrev	C-x a l
add global expansion for this abbrev	C-x a i g
add mode-local expansion for this abbrev	C-x a i l
explicitly expand abbrev	C-x a e
expand previous word dynamically	M-/

## Regular Expressions

any single character except a newline	.	(dot)
zero or more repeats	*	
one or more repeats	+	
zero or one repeat	?	
any character in the set	[ ... ]	
any character not in the set	[^ ... ]	
beginning of line	^	
end of line	\$	
quote a special character <i>c</i>	\c	
alternative (“or”)		
grouping	\( ... \)	
<i>n</i> th group	\n	
beginning of buffer	\‘	
end of buffer	\’	
word break	\b	
not beginning or end of word	\B	
beginning of word	\<	
end of word	\>	
any word-syntax character	\w	
any non-word-syntax character	\W	
character with syntax <i>c</i>	\sc	
character with syntax not <i>c</i>	\Sc	

## Registers

save region in register	C-x r s
insert register contents into buffer	C-x r i
save value of point in register	C-x r SPC
jump to point saved in register	C-x r j

## Info

enter the Info documentation reader	C-h i	
Moving within a node:		
scroll forward	SPC	
scroll reverse	DEL	
beginning of node	.	(dot)
Moving between nodes:		
<b>next</b> node	n	
<b>previous</b> node	p	
<b>move up</b>	u	
select menu item by name	m	
select <i>n</i> th menu item by number (1-5)	n	
follow cross reference (return with 1)	f	
return to last node you saw	l	
return to directory node	d	
go to any node by name	g	
Other:		
run Info <b>tutorial</b>	h	
list Info commands	?	
<b>quit</b> Info	q	
search nodes for regexp	s	

## Keyboard Macros

<b>start</b> defining a keyboard macro	C-x (
<b>end</b> keyboard macro definition	C-x )
<b>execute</b> last-defined keyboard macro	C-x e
<b>edit</b> keyboard macro	C-x C-k
append to last keyboard macro	C-u C-x (
name last keyboard macro	M-x name-last-kbd-macro
insert Lisp definition in buffer	M-x insert-kbd-macro

## Commands Dealing with Emacs Lisp

eval <b>sexp</b> before point	C-x C-e
eval current <b>defun</b>	C-M-x
eval <b>region</b>	M-x eval-region
eval entire <b>buffer</b>	M-x eval-current-buffer
read and eval minibuffer	M-ESC
re-execute last minibuffer command	C-x ESC ESC
read and eval Emacs Lisp file	M-x load-file
load from standard system directory	M-x load-library

## Simple Customization

Here are some examples of binding global keys in Emacs Lisp.

```
(global-set-key [(control c) g] 'goto-line)
(global-set-key [(control x) (control k)] 'kill-region)
(global-set-key [(meta #)] 'query-replace-regexp)
```

An example of setting a variable in Emacs Lisp:

```
(setq backup-by-copying-when-linked t)
```

## Writing Commands

```
(defun command-name (args)
  "documentation"
  (interactive "template")
  body)
```

An example:

```
(defun this-line-to-top-of-window (line)
  "Reposition line point is on to top of window.
With ARG, put point on line ARG.
Negative counts from bottom."
  (interactive "P")
  (recenter (if (null line)
                0
                (prefix-numeric-value line))))
```

The argument to `interactive` is a string specifying how to get the arguments when the function is called interactively. Type `C-h f interactive` for more information.

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 designed by Stephen Gildea, April 1998 v2.0 XEmacs  
 for GNU Emacs version 19 on Unix systems  
 Updated for XEmacs in February 1995 by Ben Wing

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