

# Basic GNU Emacs Key Bindings

## Moving Around in Text

Key	Binding
<b>c-v</b>	Forward one screen
<b>a-v</b>	Back one screen
<b>c-l</b>	Clear and redisplay
<b>c-p</b>	Previous line
<b>c-n</b>	Next line
<b>c-b</b>	Backward one character
<b>c-f</b>	Forward one character
<b>a-b</b>	Backward one word
<b>a-f</b>	Forward one word
<b>c-a</b>	Beginning of line
<b>c-e</b>	End of line
<b>a-a</b>	Beginning of sentence
<b>a-e</b>	End of sentence
<b>a-&lt;</b>	Beginning of file
<b>a-&gt;</b>	End of file
<b>&lt;arg&gt; c-l</b>	Scroll to line “arg”
<b>c-x &lt;</b>	Scroll text left
<b>c-x &gt;</b>	Scroll text right

## Deleting, Undo, and Yank

Key	Binding
<b>c-x u</b>	Undo
<b>c-_</b>	Undo
<b>&lt;bksp&gt;</b>	Delete char before cursor
<b>&lt;del&gt;</b>	Delete char after cursor
<b>c-d</b>	Delete char after cursor
<b>a-&lt;bksp&gt;</b>	Kill word before cursor
<b>a-d</b>	Kill word after cursor
<b>c-k</b>	Kill to end of line
<b>a-k</b>	Kill to end of sentence
<b>c-x &lt;del&gt;</b>	Kill to beginning of sentence
<b>c-y</b>	Yank back from kill buffer
<b>a-y</b>	Meta-yank (yank previous)

## Files and Buffers

Key	Binding
<b>c-x c-c</b>	Quit Emacs
<b>c-x c-f</b>	Find (read) a file
<b>c-x c-v</b>	Visit a different file
<b>c-x c-s</b>	Save a file
<b>c-x c-w</b>	Save buffer is specified file.
<b>a-x set-visited-file-name</b>	Change filename for this buffer
<b>c-x s</b>	Save some buffers
<b>c-x c-b</b>	List buffers
<b>c-x k</b>	Kill a buffer
<b>a-x kill-some-buffers</b>	Offer to kill each buffer
<b>c-x 1</b>	1 screen
<b>c-x 2</b>	2 screens
<b>c-z</b>	Exit temporarily
<b>c-x c-d &lt;dir&gt;</b>	Short directory listing
<b>c-u c-x c-d &lt;dir&gt;</b>	Long directory listing
<b>c-x d or a-x dired</b>	Enter directory editor (dired)
<b>a-x view-file</b>	View a file
<b>a-x insert-file</b>	Get file into current buffer
<b>a-x write-region</b>	Write region into file
<b>a-x delete-file</b>	Delete file
<b>a-x rename-file</b>	Rename file
<b>a-x copy-file</b>	Copy the file
<b>a-x cd</b>	Change pwd

## In Buffer List (c-x c-b)

Key	Binding
<b>d or k</b>	Delete (kill) the buffer
<b>s</b>	Request save of buffer
<b>~</b>	Mark buffer as unmodified
<b>x</b>	Perform saves and deletions
<b>1</b>	Select buffer in full screen window
<b>2</b>	Select buffer in other of 2 windows
<b>f</b>	Select buffer to edit (full screen)
<b>o</b>	Select buffer in other window
<b>m</b>	Flag for display when “q” is used

**q** Display all flagged buffers

## In Dired List (c-x d)

Key	Binding
<b>d</b>	Flag file for deletion
<b>u</b>	Remove deletion flag
<b>x</b>	Delete files flagged
<b>#</b>	Flag all auto-save files for deletion
<b>~</b>	Flag all backup files for deletion
<b>.</b>	Flag excess backup files for deletion
<b>c</b>	Copies file
<b>f</b>	Visits (edit) file
<b>o</b>	Like f, but use another window
<b>r</b>	Rename file
<b>v</b>	View the file (read-only editing)

## In View File (a-x view-file)

Key	Binding
<b>&lt;space&gt;</b>	Move forward one window
<b>&lt;del&gt;</b>	Move backward one window
<b>c-c</b>	Exit

## Help

Key	Binding
<b>c-h</b>	Help
<b>c-h a &lt;keyword&gt;</b>	List all commands which contain “keyword”
<b>c-h b</b>	Display all key bindings
<b>c-h c &lt;cmd&gt;</b>	What does “cmd” do?
<b>c-h f &lt;function&gt;</b>	Help for function
<b>c-h i</b>	Run Info (for browsing docs)
<b>c-h k &lt;cmd&gt;</b>	More extensive help
<b>c-h t</b>	Tutorial
<b>c-h w &lt;cmd&gt;</b>	Show keys which run “cmd”

## Arguments and Re-executing

Key	Binding
<b>c-u</b> <arg>	Numeric argument to next command
<b>a-&lt;digit 1..9&gt;</b>	Numeric argument to next command
<b>c-g</b>	Bail-out
<b>c-x ESC</b>	Re-execute mini-buffer command
Key	Binding
<b>a-p</b>	Move to previous command
<b>a-n</b>	Move to next command
<b>a-x list-command-history</b>	Display entire command history

## Mark, Point, and Region

“Point” and “Mark” define a “Region” between them. The “point” is the current cursor position.

Key	Binding
<b>c-&lt;space&gt;</b> or <b>c-@</b>	Set mark
<b>c-x c-x</b>	Swap mark and point
<b>a-@</b>	Set mark after end of next word
<b>a-h</b>	Set region around current paragraph
<b>c-x h</b>	Set region around entire buffer
<b>c-x c-p</b>	Set region around current page

## Region Commands

Key	Binding
<b>c-x c-u</b>	Uppercase text in region
<b>c-x c-l</b>	Lowercase text in region
<b>c-w</b>	Kill a region
<b>a-w</b>	Save region as killed, without killing
<b>a-g</b>	Fill each paragraph in region
<b>a-x fill-region-as-paragraph</b>	Fill entire region as one paragraph
<b>a-x print-region</b>	Print a region
<b>c-x TAB</b> or <b>c-a-\</b>	Indent a region
<b>c-x a &lt;buffer&gt;</b>	Append region to buffer
<b>a-x prepend-to-buffer</b>	Prepend region to buffer
<b>a-x copy-to-buffer</b>	Copy region into buffer (deletes old contents)
<b>a-x insert-buffer</b>	Insert region into buffer at point

**a-x append-to-file** <file> Append region to file

## Rectangles

Key	Binding
<b>a-x delete-rectangle</b>	Delete region and close
<b>a-x kill-rectangle</b>	Delete and put in kill buffer
<b>a-x yank-rectangle</b>	Yank last killed rectangle
<b>a-x open-rectangle</b>	Insert blank space to fill region
<b>a-x clear-rectangle</b>	Convert region to blanks

## Formatting

Key	Binding
<b>c-o</b>	Insert blank lines after cursor
<b>a-l</b>	Lowercase following word
<b>a-u</b>	Uppercase following word
<b>a-c</b>	Capitalize following word
<b>a- a-l</b>	Convert last word to lower case
<b>a- a-u</b>	Convert last word to upper case
<b>a- a-c</b>	Convert last word to capitalized
<b>c-u &lt;arg&gt;</b> <b>c-x f</b>	Set margin to “arg”
<b>a-q</b>	Re-fill paragraph
<b>c-u &lt;arg&gt;</b> <b>a-q</b>	Justify text
<b>a-s</b>	Center line

## Search and Replace

Key	Binding
<b>c-s</b>	Search
<b>c-r</b>	Reverse search
<b>c-s ESC &lt;string&gt;</b> <b>RET</b>	Non-incremental search
<b>c-r ESC &lt;string&gt;</b> <b>RET</b>	Non-incremental reverse search
<b>c-s ESC c-w &lt;words&gt;</b> <b>RET</b>	Search for “words,” ignore punctuation
<b>c-r ESC c-w &lt;words&gt;</b> <b>RET</b>	Search for “words,” ignore punctuation
<b>a-x replace-string</b> <b>RET</b> <string> <b>RET</b> <newstring>	Replace all occurrences of “string”
<b>a-% &lt;string&gt;</b> <b>RET</b> <newstring>	Query replace “string”
<b>a-x query-replace</b> <string> <b>RET</b> <newstring>	Query replace “string”

## Query Replace (a-x query-replace)

Key	Binding
<b>&lt;space&gt;</b>	Replace “string” with “newstring”
<b>&lt;del&gt;</b>	Skip this occurrence
<b>&lt;ESC&gt;</b>	Exit without any more changes
<b>&lt;.&gt;</b>	Change this one and then exit
<b>&lt;!&gt;</b>	Change all remaining
<b>&lt;^&gt;</b>	Back-up one occurrence
<b>c-h</b>	Show your options

## Spell Checking

Key	Binding
<b>a-\$</b>	Check and correct spelling of word
<b>a-x spell-buffer</b>	Check spelling of words in buffer
<b>a-x spell-region</b>	Check spelling of words in region
<b>a-x spell-string</b>	Check spelling of specific word

## Windows

Key	Binding
<b>c-x 2</b>	Split into two vertical windows
<b>c-x 5</b>	Split into two horizontal windows
<b>c-x 0</b>	Select other window
<b>c-a-v</b>	Scroll the next window
<b>a-x compare-windows</b>	Find next place where text doesn't match
<b>c-x 4</b>	Perform command in another window
<b>c-x 0</b>	Get rid of selected window
<b>c-x 1</b>	Get rid of all windows except current
<b>c-x ^</b>	Make current window taller
<b>c-x }</b>	Make current window wider

## Indentation

Key	Binding
<b>TAB</b>	Indent “appropriately” (based on Mode)

<b>c-q TAB</b>	Insert tab character into buffer
<b>&lt;linefeed&gt;</b>	Return followed by Tab
<b>a-m</b>	Move to first non-blank character on line
<b>a-^</b>	Merge two lines
<b>c-a-o</b>	Split line at point (new line is indented to match old line)
<b>c-a-\</b>	Indent several lines to same column
<b>c-x TAB</b>	Shift block of lines rigidly
<b>a-i</b>	Indent to next tab column
<b>a-x indent-relative</b>	Indent to under an indentation point in previous line
<b>a-x edit-tab-stops</b>	Set tab stop columns

## Text Modes

Key	Binding
<b>a-x text-mode</b>	Enter text mode
<b>a-x indented-text-mode</b>	Enter indented text mode

## Program Mode

A “sexp” is an expression, usually enclosed in some type of parenthesis, brackets, or braces. Lists are parenthetical groupings.

Key	Binding
<b>TAB</b>	Indent the “appropriate” amount for this language.
<b>c-a-f</b>	Move forward over a sexp
<b>c-a-b</b>	Move backward over a sexp
<b>c-a-k</b>	Kill sexp forward
<b>c-a-u</b>	Move up and backward in list structure
<b>c-a-d</b>	Move down and forward in list structure
<b>c-a-n</b>	Move forward over a list
<b>c-a-p</b>	Move backward over a list
<b>c-a-t</b>	Transpose expressions
<b>c-a-@</b>	Put mark after following expression

<b>c-a-a</b>	Move to beginning of current or preceding function
<b>c-a-e</b>	Move to end of current or following function
<b>c-a-h</b>	Put region around current or following function
<b>c-a-q</b>	Re-indent all lines within one list
<b>c-u TAB</b>	Shift list rigidly so that first line is properly indented
<b>c-a-\</b>	Re-indent all lines in the region
<b>a-;</b>	Insert or align comment
<b>c-x ;</b>	Set comment column
<b>c-u - c-x ;</b>	Kill comment on current line
<b>a-&lt;linefeed&gt;</b>	Return, followed by inserting and aligning comment
<b>a-(</b>	Put parenthesis around next sexp
<b>a-)</b>	Move past next close parenthesis and re-indent
<b>a-x add-change-log-entry</b>	Insert a change log entry (in ChangeLog file)

## Running Compilers under Emacs

Key	Binding
<b>a-x compile</b>	Run a compiler under Emacs, with messages to “*compilation*” buffer
<b>a-x grep</b>	Run grep under Emacs, list matching lines in “*compilation*” buffer
<b>a-x kill-compiler</b>	
<b>a-x kill-grep</b>	
<b>c-x ^</b>	Visit the location of the next compiler message or grep match
<b>c-u c-x ^</b>	Start at beginning of messages

## Compiler Variables

`compile-command`  
 Defaults to “make -l.” Can be overridden with local variables.

## Sorting

Key	Binding
<b>a-x sort-lines</b>	Sort region. A prefix argument means sort into descending order.
<b>a-x sort-paragraphs</b>	Sort region by paragraphs.
<b>a-x sort-pages</b>	Sort region by pages.
<b>a-x sort-fields</b>	Sort region by lines. Fields are separated by whitespace. Field number is specified by argument. Negative argument signals descending order sort.
<b>a-x sort-numeric-fields</b>	Convert field to a number and sort.
<b>a-x sort-columns</b>	Sort region on fixed range of columns. Put “point” at one column and “mark” at the other column. Region of sort is defined as the lines “point” and “mark” are located in. This command sorts a rectangle.

## Shell Commands

Key	Binding
<b>a-!</b>	Run shell command
<b>a- </b>	Run shell command with region contents as input. Optionally replace region with output.
<b>a-x shell</b>	Run a subshell with input and output through Emacs buffer.

## SubShell Commands

Key	Binding
<b>RET</b>	Send buffer line as input (if at end of line), otherwise copy line to end of buffer and send it. Leave out prompt.
<b>c-c c-d</b>	Send end of file.
<b>c-c c-u</b>	Kill all text that hasn't been sent yet.
<b>c-c c-w</b>	Kill a word before point
<b>c-c c-c</b>	Interrupt the shell
<b>c-c c-z</b>	Stop the shell
<b>c-c c-\</b>	Send quit signal to shell

<b>c-c c-o</b>	Delete last batch of output from shell
<b>c-c c-r</b>	Scroll top of last batch of output to top of window
<b>c-c c-y</b>	Copy the previous bunch of shell input to before point.

## Shell Variables

shell-prompt-pattern

Should contain a regular expression that matches shell prompt. This allows Emacs to delete shell prompt before resubmitting a command.

## Printing Commands

Key	Binding
<b>a-x print-buffer</b>	Print copy of current buffer using print command
<b>a-x lpr-buffer</b>	Print copy of current buffer using lpr command
<b>a-x print-region</b>	Like print-buffer, but only prints region
<b>a-x lpr-region</b>	Like lpr-buffer, but only prints region

## Ack! Ack!

All of this material was extracted (painfully, I might add) from the *GNU Emacs Manual*, Fifth Edition, Emacs Version 18 for Unix Users (dated October 1986).

