

Emacs on Athena Reference Card



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AC-43

Starting the Editor

To create a new Emacs window for editing:

emacs &
emacs filename &
emacs switches &

where *filename* is the name of the file for editing, which may or may not exist, and where *switches* can be any combination of:

-rv use reverse video
-font fontname use *fontname* instead of default "vtsingle"
-geometry width xheight ±xoff ±yoff specify size and position of window

example:

emacs -rv -geometry 80x55+30+10 filename &

You can also start Emacs from the Text submenu of the Text/ Graphics menu of the dash menu bar. For more options, type **man emacs**.

Exiting the Editor

C-x C-c exit (will prompt to save modified buffers)

Getting Help

Type **C-h** and follow the instructions. If you are a first time user, type **C-h t** for a tutorial.

C-h a apropos: show commands matching string
C-h m get mode-specific information
C-Shift-MIDDLE pop-up help menu
M-C-v scroll Help window
C-x l hide Help window

Searching

C-s search forward
C-r search backward

Emacs prompts for search string, then finds it incrementally as you enter it. Fix typos with **DELETE** key. Valid actions:

C-s look for next occurrence
C-r search backwards
Esc or **F11** end search (keep cursor at position)
C-g cancel search (go back to start)
C-w grab word after cursor as search string
C-y grab rest of current line as search string

Replacing

M-% interactively replace a text string
C-x Esc restart query-replace with same strings

Emacs finds each occurrence and prompts for action. Valid actions:

Space replace this occurrence
. replace this, then exit
replace this and display result
skip to next without changing
Delete
Esc or **F11** exit without doing any more
! replace the remaining without prompting
^ go back to the previous occurrence
C-r enter recursive editing mode
(**C-M-c** to exit)
C-h display these options

On this card, as in most Athena documentation, the following conventions are used:

C-x (Ctrl-x) press *x* while holding down **Control (Ctrl)** key
M-x press *x* while holding down **Meta (Compose Character, + Compose, Alt, or ⌘)** key; or in Emacs on DEC and IBM workstations, press and release the **Esc** or **F11** key, then press *x*.
Return press **Return** or **Enter** in main keyboard area
Delete press the key at or near the upper right corner of the main keyboard labeled **Backspace** or **<X>**; not **Delete**
LEFT left mouse button
MIDDLE middle mouse button
RIGHT right mouse button

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Error Recovery

C-g cancel any command, get out
C-x u undo the last command
C-l redraw garbaged screen
M-x recover-file recover a file lost by system crash
M-x revert-buffer restore a buffer to original contents

Moving the Cursor

C-f or **→** move forward one character
C-b or **←** move back one character

M-f move forward one word
M-b move back one word

C-p or **↑** move to previous line
C-n or **↓** move to next line

C-a go to beginning of current line
C-e go to end of current line
M-x goto-line go to line *n*

M-a go to beginning of current sentence
M-e go to end of current sentence

M-[go to beginning of current paragraph
M-] go to end of current paragraph

C-v scroll to next screen
M-v scroll to previous screen
C-x < scroll screen left
C-x > scroll screen right

M-< go to beginning of current buffer
M-> go to end of current buffer

C-x C-x exchange cursor with mark

LEFT move emacs cursor to mouse position

Inserting Text

type at cursor insert normal printing characters
Return Return insert blank lines
C-q control-char insert control character
M-x insert-buffer bring in text from other buffer
C-x i bring in text from external file

Changing Case

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

Transposing

C-t transpose current and previous char
M-t transpose current and previous word
C-x C-t transpose current and previous line

Spelling

M-x ispell-word check current word
M-x ispell-region check all words in region
M-x ispell-buffer check all words in buffer

Fill and Line Wrap

Text mode must be on to use the fill commands.

M-x text-mode enter text mode

C-u n C-x f set right margin to column *n*
M-x auto-fill turn auto fill mode on or off (off by default)

M-q fill paragraph
M-g fill region
M-s center on line with respect to fill

Minibuffer

These keys are defined in the minibuffer:

Tab complete as much as possible
Space complete up to one word
Return complete and execute
? show possible completions
C-g abort command

Marking a Region

A region is all the text between a mark and the cursor.

C-Space set mark here
C-x C-x exchange point and mark
M-@ set word mark
M-h set paragraph mark
C-x C-p set page mark
C-x h set buffer mark

Deleting and Killing

Killed text is placed into the kill buffer and can be retrieved. Deleted text is not placed into the kill buffer, thus is not retrievable. Forward kills include the text currently under the cursor, backward kills do not. You can use kill and yank to move text.

Delete delete previous character
C-d delete current character

M-d kill word forward
M-Delete kill word backward

C-k kill line forward
C-u 0 C-k kill line backward

M-k kill sentence forward
C-x Delete kill sentence backward

C-w kill region
M-w copy region

M-z c kill (zap) forward to character *c*
C-u - M-z c kill (zap) backward to character *c*

C-y yank back (restore) last thing killed
C-u 2 C-y yank back next to last thing killed
C-y M-y M-y ... cycle through previous kills

MIDDLE paste text from X cut buffer to mouse cursor

RIGHT copy text between Emacs and mouse cursor into X cut buffer

Shift-MIDDLE copy text between Emacs and mouse cursor into X cut buffer, and the Emacs kill ring

C-MIDDLE cut text between Emacs and mouse cursor into X cut buffer and the Emacs kill ring

Files

C-x C-f read new file into new buffer
C-x i insert contents of another file into this buffer
C-x C-s save current buffer into same file
C-x s prompt to save all modified buffers
C-x C-w write buffer to specified file
M-x write-region save marked region as a file

Buffers

C-x b select another buffer
C-x C-b or **C-Shift-LEFT** list all existing buffers
C-x k delete a buffer

Windows

C-x l hide all other windows
C-x 0 ("zero") hide window the cursor is in
C-x 2 OR **C-RIGHT** split window in two horizontally
C-x 5 split window in two vertically
C-x ^ enlarge window
C-x o ("oh") move to other window
C-M-v scroll other window down
C-u - C-M-v scroll other window up
C-x < scroll window right
C-x > scroll window left

Macros

C-x (start defining keyboard macro
C-x) end keyboard macro definition
C-x e execute last-defined keyboard macro
C-u C-x (append to last keyboard macro
M-x name-last-kbd-macro name last keyboard macro