

The Woodnotes Emacs Cheat Sheet for Writers (not Coders)

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M-x means "hold down the ALT button and press X." C-u means "hold down the CTRL button and press u." Anything listed in parenthesis is a command accessed by typing M-x and then entering the name of the command.

Cursor Movement

Entity to Move Over	Backward	Forward
character	C-b	C-f
word	M-b	M-f
line	C-p	C-n
sentence	M-a	M-e
paragraph	M-{	M-}
page	C-x [C-x]
line beginning/end	C-a	C-e
buffer beginning (or end)	M-<	M->

C-u 8 C-f moves forward eight characters

Scrolling

previous/next screen	M-v	C-v
scroll left/right	C-x <	C-x >
scroll current line to center of screen	C-u C-l	C-l
scroll other window	M-C v	
Goto line	M-g	

Cut/Paste (Kill/Yank)

Entity to Kill	Backward	Forward		
character	DEL	C-d	C-w	kill entire line (kill-entire-line)
word	M-DEL	M-d	M-w	kill region
line (to end of)		C-k	M-z char	copy region to kill ring
sentence	C-x DEL	M-k	C-y	kill through next occurrence of char
			M-y	yank back last thing killed
			C-<, C->	replace last yank with previous kill
				Select to beginning, end of buffer

Undo/Redo

C-x u or C-_ Undo
M-x redo

Accumulating Text in Buffers

	Append region to the contents of a specified buffer.	(append-to-buffer)
	Prepend region to the contents of a specified buffer.	(prepend-to-buffer)
	Copy region into a specified buffer, deleting that buffer's old contents.	(copy-to-buffer)
	Insert the contents of a specified buffer into current buffer at point.	(insert-buffer)
	Append region to the contents of a specified file, at the end.	(append-to-file)

Cleaning Up Spaces and Blank Lines

	Remove extra spaces between words in region.	(canonically-space-region)
	Find extra spaces at the end of lines in the current file.	(checkdoc-rogue-spaces)
M-\	Delete all spaces and tabs around point.	(delete-horizontal-space)
M-SPC	Delete all spaces and tabs around point, leaving one space.	(just-one-space)
C-o	Insert blank line at cursor.	
C-x C-o	Remove all blank lines except one	
M-^	Join current line to the previous line	

Formatting Margins, etc.

C-x f	Set margin (default: 70)	
C-u 20 C-x f	Set margin to 20 characters.	
M-q	Reformat a paragraph	(fill-region)
	Hard wrap text. Set using C-x f	(auto-fill-mode)
	Format several paragraphs, each individually	(fill-individual-paragraphs)
	Format the entire region selected as one paragraph, combining individual paragraphs.	(fill-region-as-paragraph)

Tabs

	Edit the tab stops	(edit-tab-stops)
	Convert all spaces into appropriate # of tabs; replace all tabs with appropriate # of spaces.	(tabify), (untabify)

Indentation

TAB	Indent the current line "appropriately" in a mode-dependent fashion.	
C-j	Perform RET followed by TAB.	
C-M-o	Split the current line at point and move 2 nd half downward	(split-line)
M-m	Move (forward or back) to the first nonblank character on the current line	(back-to-indentation)
C-M-\	Indent several lines to the same column	(indent-region)
C-x TAB	Shift a block of lines rigidly right or left	(indent-rigidly)
M-i	Indent from point to the next prespecified tab stop column	(tab-to-tab-stop).
	Indent from point to under an indentation point in the previous line.	(indent-relative)

Search/Replace and Incremental Search

C-s, C-r	Incr. search forw/backward
C-M-s	Regular expression search
C-M-r	Reverse regular expression search
M-p	Select previous search string
M-n	Select next later search string
RET	Exit incremental search
DEL	Undo effect of last character
C-g	Abort current search

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.

Transposition

C-t	Transpose two characters	(transpose-chars)
M-t	Transpose two words	(transpose-words)
C-x C-t	Transpose two lines	(transpose-lines)

Spelling

	Enable Flyspell mode, which highlights all misspelled words beginning from where you type.	(flyspell-mode)
	Revise the whole buffer.	(flyspell-buffer)
M-\$	Check and correct spelling of the word at point (ispell-word).	

M-TAB	Complete the word before point based on the spelling dictionary (ispell-complete-word).	
	Spell-check the active region or the current buffer.	(ispell)
	Check and correct spelling of each word in the buffer.	(ispell-buffer)
	Check and correct spelling of each word in the region.	(ispell-region)
	Change the ispell dictionary to another language	(ispell-change-dictionary)

Macros

C-x (Start defining a keyboard macro	(start-kbd-macro).
C-x)	(end-kbd-macro).	End the definition of a keyboard macro
C-x e	(call-last-kbd-macro')	
	Execute the most recent keyboard macro	
C-u C-x (Re-execute last keyboard macro, then add more keys to its definition.	
(name-last-kbd-macro)	Give a command name (for the duration of the session) to the most recently defined keyboard macro.	
(insert-kbd-macro)	Insert in the buffer a keyboard macro's definition, as Lisp code.	
C-x C-k	Edit a previously defined keyboard macro	(edit-kbd-macro).
(apply-macro-to-region-lines)	Run the last keyboard macro on each complete line in the region.	

Keybindings

Add lines like the following in your .emacs file:

(global-set-key [f1] 'goto-line)	binds the key F1
(global-set-key [?\M-\l] 'next-line)	binds the key Alt-L
(global-set-key [?\C-x ?\w] 'beginning-of-buffer)	binds the key C-x w

Windows Commands

C-x 5 0 delete a frame (delete-frame)
C-x 5 o shift focus to other frame (other-frame)

Modes

M-x text-mode

C-h m view documentation on major mode
C-x f with an argument of 20. (C-u 20 C-x f).

Files (Opening, Saving, Printing)

C-x C-f read a file into Emacs
C-x C-s save a file back to disk
C-x s save all files
C-x i insert contents of another file into this buffer
C-x C-v replace this file with the file you really want
C-x C-w write buffer to a file with another name
 print buffer to a postscript file M-1 M-x ps-print-buffer-with-faces
 open file in a separate frame (find-file-other-frame)
 delete frame (if you are using parallel views) (delete-frame)

Bookmarks

C-x r m Set bookmark
 Jump to a bookmark (bookmark-jump)

File Coding Systems (Translating DOS-Unix-Mac etc.)

C-x C-m C describe-coding-system
C-x C-m F set-default-buffer-file-coding-system
C-x C-m X set-next-selection-coding-system
C-x C-m c universal-coding-system-argument
C-x C-m f set-buffer-file-coding-system
C-x C-m l set-language-environment
C-x C-m p set-buffer-process-coding-system
C-x C-m r toggle-display-direction
C-x C-m t set-terminal-coding-system
C-x C-m x set-selection-coding-system
C-x C-m C-\ set-input-method

C-x return C describe-coding-system
C-x return F set-default-buffer-file-coding-system
C-x return X set-next-selection-coding-system
C-x return c universal-coding-system-argument
C-x return f set-buffer-file-coding-system
C-x return l set-language-environment
C-x return p set-buffer-process-coding-system
C-x return r toggle-display-direction
C-x return t set-terminal-coding-system
C-x return x set-selection-coding-system
C-x return C-\ set-input-method