

Emacs Editor Keybindings or Shortcuts

Emacs has many shortcuts or Keybindings. These Keybindings are not required, but they help by increasing productivity. Professional developers use them a lot. The emphasis of these keybindings is never to move had from the alphanumeric keys or the normal keys.

To do that, CTRL and ALT are used extensively to apply commands. Here you will find many of the Keybindings present in Emacs

A. Movement Keys

These keys are used to move between characters, words, lines, etc. You can use these keybindings to start using movement keys without taking your hands from the alphanumeric keys.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	CTRL+B	Moves the cursor one character forward
2.	CTRL+F	Move the cursor one character backward
3.	ALT+B	Moves the cursor one word forward
4.	ALT+F	Move the cursor one word backward
5.	CTRL+P	Moves the cursor one line forward
6.	CTRL+N	Move the cursor one line backward
7.	CTRL+A	Go to line beginning
8.	CTRL+E	Go to line ending

B. Killing or Deleting Keys

Here are the shortcut keys for deleting or killing characters, words, and lines.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	DEL	Delete a character in the backward
2.	CTRL+D	Delete a character in the forward
3.	ALT+DEL	Delete a word in the backward
4.	ALT+D	Delete a word in the forward
5.	ALT+0	Delete a line in the backward

6.	CTRL+K	Delete a line in the forward
7.	CTRL+Y	Yank back the last thing killed
8.	ALT+Y	Replace the last yank with the previous kill

C. Search Keys

You may want to search some words or characters in Emacs and to do that you can use the incremental search keys quite easily.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	CTRL+S	Search forward
2.	CTRL+R	Search backward
3.	CTRL+ALT+S	Regular Expression search forward
4.	CTRL+ALT+R	Regular Expression search backward
5.	ENTER	Exit incremental search
6.	DEL	Undo effect of last character
7.	CTRL+G	Abort current search

D. Files Keys

There are also many Keybindings for working with files. Here are some of the file management keybindings.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	CTRL+X CTRL+F	Read a file
2.	CTRL+X CTRL+S	Save a file
3.	CTRL+X S	Save all files
4.	CTRL+X I	Insert the content of another file
5.	CTRL+X CTRL+F	Replace this file with another file

E. Replace Keys

You can replace a text with another one using some of these keybindings.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	ALT+%	Interactively replace a text or string
2.	ALT+X regex	Using regular expression
3.	SPACE/Y	Replace
4.	DEL/N	Skip
5.	!	Replace all

F. Getting Help Keys

You can search for help in Emacs using the following Keybindings.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	CTRL+H	Help window
2.	CTRL+X 1	Scroll help window
3.	CTRL+H A	Show commands matching a string
4.	CTRL+H K	Describe the function a key runs
5.	CTRL+H F	Describe a function

G. Case Change Keys

Sometimes, you need to change cases to UPPERCASE or lowercase. To do that the following Keybindings can be used.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	ALT+U	Uppercase word
2.	ALT+L	Lowercase word
3.	ALT+C	Capitalize word

H. Spelling Check Keys

You can check your text spelling by using the following Keybindings.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	ALT+\$	Check the spelling of the current word
2.	ALT+X ispell-region	Check the spelling of all words in the region
3.	ALT+X ispell-buffer	Check the spelling of the entire buffer

I. Shells Keys

You can use the shell commands in Emacs as well. You can use the following Keybindings.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	ALT+!	Execute a shell command
2.	ALT+ 	Run a shell command on region
3.	CTRL+U ALT+ 	Filter region through a shell command

J. Keyboard Macros Keys

You can create a keyboard macro using Keybindings as well. To do that use the following Keybindings.

Serial No.	Shortcut Keys	Functions
1.	CTRL+X (Start defining a keyboard macro
2.	CTRL+X)	End Keyboard definition
3.	CTRL+X E	Execute last defined keyboard macro