Emacs Command Cheat Sheet

Meta Key on Various Keyboards:
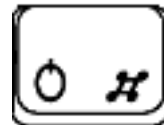
Unix

PC

Macintosh

Common Abbreviations:

- "M-x" means "**press and then release** the Meta key and then press the "x" key
- "C-x" means "**press and hold** the Control key and then press and release the "x" key

Emacs Basic Commands

Command	Keystroke	Command-Line
Open a file	C-x C-f	M-x find-file
Insert another file at the current cursor position	C-x i	M-x insert-file
Save current file	C-x C-s	M-x save-buffer
Save current file with another name (similar to "Save As")	C-x C-w	M-x write-file
Open an additional file	C-x C-f	M-x find file

Moving Among Buffers

Command	Keystroke	Command-Line
Move to the previous buffer	C-x b	M-x switch-to-buffer
Display buffer list	C-x C-b	M-x list-buffers
Delete current buffer	C-x k	M-x kill-buffer

Using Emacs "Windows"

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Command	Keystroke	Command-Line
Create two windows	C-x 2	M-x split-window-vertically
Move to the other window	C-x o	M-x other-window
Delete the current window	C-x 0	M-x delete-window
Delete all other windows except the current window	C-x 1	M-x delete-other-windows

Moving Around an Emacs Buffer		
Command	**Keystroke**	**Command-Line**
Move to the beginning of a buffer	M-<	M-x beginning-of-buffer
Move to the end of a buffer	M->	M-x end-of-buffer
Move forward one character	C-f	M-x forward-char
Move backward one character	C-b	M-x backward-char
Move down one line	C-n	M-x next-line
Move up on line	C-p	M-x previous-line
Move forward one word	M-f	M-x forward-word
Move backward one word	M-b	M-x backward-word
Move to the end of a line	C-e	M-x end-of-line
Move to the beginning of a line	C-a	M-x beginning-of-line
Move forward one screen	C-v	M-x scroll up
Move backward one screen	M-v	M-x scroll-down

Cutting (Deleting) Text		
Command	**Keystroke**	**Command-Line**
Delete character	C-d	M-x delete-char
Delete previous character	DEL (or BACKSPACE on some keyboards)	M-x delete-backward-char
Delete word	M-d	M-x kill-word
Delete previous word	M-DEL (or M-BACKSPACE on some keyboards)	M-x backward-kill-word
Delete the entire line	C-k	M-x kill-line

Emacs Command Cheat Sheet

		Marking Text to Delete, Move or Copy
Command	**Keystroke**	**Command-Line**
Mark the beginning of a selection	C-@ **or** C-SPACEBAR	M-x set-mark-command
Delete the marked region	C-w	M-x kill-region
Copy a marked region	M-w **or** C-INSERT	M-x kill-ring-save
Paste (Yank) a cut or copied a region	C-y	M-x yank

		Searching & Replacing Text
Command	**Keystroke**	**Command-Line**
Incremental search forward*	C-s	M-x isearch-forward
Incremental search backward*	C-r	M-x isearch-backward
Exit incremental search*	<ENTER> or <RETURN>	*None
Cancel incremental search*	C-g	M-x keyboard-quit
Delete incorrect character in search string of incremental search*	DEL (or M-BACKSPACE on some keyboards)	*None
Non-incremental search forward	C-s RETURN (or ENTER on some keyboards)	*None
Non-incremental search backward	C-r RETURN (or ENTER on some keyboards)	*None
Start query replace	M-%	M-x query-replace
Replace current instance and continue on to next instance	SPACEBAR or y	*None
Don't replace current instance, but move on to next instance	DEL (or M-BACKSPACE on some keyboards) **or** n	*None
Replace the current instance and then quit	. (period key)	*None
Replace the current instance and then pause	, (comma key)	*None
Resume after pausing	SPACEBAR or y	*None
Replace remaining instances without asking	!	*None
Back up to previous instance	^	*None
Exit query replace	RETURN (or ENTER on some keyboards) **or** q	*None

*- NOTE: An incremental search is one in which the search begins as soon as you begin typing and continues search as you type additional characters.

		Wildcard Searches

Emacs Command Cheat Sheet

Command	Keystroke	Command-Line
Search for a group of sequential characters forward	M C-s RETURN (ENTER on some keyboards) FOLLOWED BY thisIsMySearchExpressio*	M-x re-search-forward
Search for a group of sequential characters backward	M C-r RETURN (ENTER on some keyboards) FOLLOWED BY thisIsMySearchExpressio*	M-x re-search-backward
Search for a group of sequential characters forward and incrementally	M C-s	M-x isearch-forward-regexp
Search for a group of sequential characters backward and incrementally	M C-r	M-x isearch-backward-regexp

		Various Other Commands
Command	**Keystroke**	**Command-Line**
Undoing recent changes	C-x u	*None
Undo all changes since the last save	*None	M-x revert-buffer
Go back to an earlier version of the current file (the file as it appeared when you first opened it)	C-x C-f filename~ RETURN (ENTER on some keyboards) FOLLOWED BY C-x C-w filename	*None
Pop out to your Unix prompt	*None	M-x shell
Cancel current command	C-g	*None