Main EMACS commands[1]

General:

- **C-x C-c :** exit from EMACS
- **C-x = :** point info
- **M 55 ...:** repeat 55 times ... (also **C-u 55**)
- **C-x u , C-_ :** undo
- **C-g :** abort partially typed command
- **C-x ESC ESC :** enter command ring
- **M-p , M-n :** previous or next ring position

Files:

- **C-x C-f :** visit a file
- **C-x C-r :** visit a file read-only
- **C-x C-s :** write buffer to file
- **C-x s :** write all buffers to file
- **C-x C-w :** write buffer to a specified file
- **C-x i :** include file in buffer
- **C-x C-v :** replace this file with another
- **M-˜ :** mark buffer as unchanged
- **M-x revert-buffer :** re-read buffer from file

Point movement:

- **C-b , C-f :** backward or forward character
- **M-b , M-f :** backward or forward word
- **C-p , C-n :** previous or next line
- **C-a , C-e :** beginning or end of line
- **M-a , M-e :** backward or forward sentence
- **M-{ , M-} :** backward or forward paragraph
- **C-x [, C-x] :** backward or forward page
- **M-< , M-> :** top or end of buffer
- **M-x goto-line :** go to line n[2]
- **C-v , M-v :** scroll to next or previous screen
- **C-l :** redraw screen
- **C-u C-l :** scroll point to center of screen
- **C-t , M-t :** transpose characters or words

Insertion:

- **C-q :** quote next character
- **C-o :** insert newline after point
- **C-x C-q :** toggle read-only status
- **M-x overwrite-mode :** toggle between insert and overwrite mode[3]

Help:

- **ESC C-v :** scroll help window
- **C-h a :** à-propos
- **C-h c :** help about keys
- **C-h f :** help about functions
- **C-h m :** mode specific help
- **C-h i :** enter Info system

Region:

- **C-SPC , C-@ :** set mark
- **C-u C-SPC , C-u C-@ :** go to mark
- **C-x C-x :** swap point and mark
- **M-w :** copy region to kill ring

Kill, yank:

- **DEL , C-d :** kill previous or next character
- **M-DEL , M-d :** kill previous or next word
- **M-0 C-k , C-k :** to beginning or end of line
- **C-x DEL , M-k :** previous or next sentence
- **C-w :** kill region
- **C-y :** yank from kill buffer
- **M-y :** replace this yank with the previous kill ring entry

Incremental search:

- **C-s , C-r :** start, forward or backward
- **M-C-s , M-C-r :** start regexp search, forward or backward
- **C-s , C-r :** find next in either direction
- **M-p , M-n :** use previous or next string from the search ring
- **RET :** exit search
- **DEL :** undo effect of last character

Search, replace:

- **C-s ESC string RET :** search for string, forward (**C-r** backward)
- **C-s ESC C-w word RET :** search for word, forward (**C-r** backward)
- **M-x replace-string RET ...:** global string replace
- **M-% ...:** query replace; in query replace, **SPC , DEL , ‘,’ , ! , ESC , ˆ** mean: Yes, No, Last, All, Quit, Back to previous match.

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[1] Version 1.5, March 1, 1996

[2] You will be prompted for this item in the minibuffer.

[3] If your keyboard has an **Insert** key, it *may* be linked to this command.

Windows:

- **C-x 0 :** close this window
- **C-x 1 :** close all other windows
- **C-x 2 :** split this window
- **C-x o :** select the next window

Buffers:

- **C-x b :** select buffer[2]
- **C-x k :** kill buffer[2]
- **C-x C-b :** list all buffers

Formatting:

- **TAB :** indent current line[4]
- **M-C-\ :** indent region[4]
- **C-x TAB :** indent region rigidly n^2 columns
- **C-x C-o :** delete all blank lines around point
- **M-ˆ :** join line with previous one
- **M-\ :** delete all whitespace around point
- **M-q :** fill paragraph
- **C-x f :** set fill column
- **C-x . :** set prefix each line starts with

Case change:

- **M-u , C-x C-u :** uppercase word or region
- **M-l , C-x C-l :** lowercase word or region
- **M-c , M-x capitalize-region :** capitalize word or region

Rectangles:

- **C-x r k :** kill rectangle
- **C-x r y :** yank rectangle
- **C-x r o :** open rectangle, shifting text right
- **C-x r c :** blank rectangle
- **C-x r t :** prefix each line with a string[2]

Shell:

- **M-! :** execute a shell command
- **M-x shell :** start a shell in its own window

Registers:

- **C-x r s :** save region to register n^2
- **C-x r i :** paste register n^2 in buffer
- **C-x r r :** copy rectangle to register n^2
- **C-x r SPC :** save point in register n^2
- **C-x r j :** jump to point saved in register n^2

Macros:

- **C-x (:** start keyboard macro definition
- **C-x) :** end keyboard macro definition
- **C-x e :** execute last keyboard macro
- **C-u C-x (:** append to last keyboard macro
- **M-x name-last-kbd-macro :** name to the last keyboard macro

Customization examples:

- **In .emacs:**
  (global-set-key "\C-cg" 'goto-line)
  (global-set-key "\C-x\C-k" 'kill-region)
  (global-set-key "\e#" 'query-replace)[5]
- **M-x global-set-key RET . . . :** set a key globally
- **M-x local-set-key RET . . . :** set a key for the current major mode only

Regular expressions:

- **. :** any single character, except a newline
- *** :** zero or more repeats
- **+ :** one or more repeats
- **? :** zero or one repeats
- **[. . .] :** any character in the set
- **[ˆ . . .] :** any character not in the set
- **ˆ :** beginning of line
- **$:** end of line
- **\c :** quote special character *c*
- **\| :** OR
- **\(. . .\) :** grouping
- **\n :** *n*th group
- **\‘ :** beginning of buffer
- **\’ :** end of buffer
- **\b :** word break
- **\B :** not beginning or end of word
- **\ < :** beginning of word
- **\ > :** end of word
- **\w :** any word-syntax character
- **\W :** any non word-syntax character
- **\sc :** any character with syntax *c*
- **\Sc :** any character with syntax not *c*

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[2] You will be prompted for this item in the minibuffer.
[4] Mode dependent.
[5] \e is the META key.