

A list of useful emacs key commands

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For those who do like emacs, here are some useful key-commands, where *C-key* stands for *Ctrl+key*, i.e. hold the *Ctrl* key down and press *key*. Similarly, *M-key* means hold the *Meta* (or *Alt*) key down and press *key*.

Emacs, like many other text editors, keeps track of your editing in a buffer. It only writes the contents of a buffer to disk if told to do so! It can deal with many buffers simultaneously (see below). It asks for and gives information at the very bottom. If you want to abort such a dialog type *C-]*.

C-x C-c	exit from emacs	
C-x C-s	save buffer	
C-x C-w	save buffer as ... (you'll be asked at the bottom)	
C-x C-f	find (or open) a file in the buffer (you'll be asked at the bottom)	
C-k	delete (kill) the current line	
C-y	insert yank, i.e. that what you killed immediately before or what has been marked with the mouse	e
C-x u	undo	m
C-s	search (you'll be asked for what)	
M-%	replace one string by another; will ask for both	a
M-f	move cursor forward by one word	
M-b	move cursor back by one word	C
C-e	put cursor at the end of the line	
C-a	put cursor at beginning of the line	S
C-x 2	split window into two; then you can edit two different buffers, copy between them and even split windows again	
C-x 3	split window vertically	
C-x o	switch to other window; only useful after C-x 2 or C-x 3	
C-x 1	keep only the currently active window	
C-x 0	close this window, keep all others	