gedit Editor Cheatsheet

A quick reference guide for the gedit text editor, covering essential commands, shortcuts, navigation, and features to boost your productivity.

Basic Editing



Basics & File Handling

File Operations

Ctrl+N	Create a new empty document.
Ctrl+O	Open an existing document.
	Opens a file dialog.
Ctrl+S	Save the current document.
Ctrl+Shift+S	Save the current document with a new name or location (Save As).
Ctrl+W	Close the current document tab.
Ctrl+Q	Quit gedit. Prompts to save unsaved documents.
Ctrl+R	Revert the current document to the last saved version.
F9	Toggle the side pane (file browser, etc.).

Ctrl+C	Copy selected text.
Ctrl+X	Cut selected text.
Ctrl+V	Paste text from the clipboard.
Ctrl+Z	Undo the last action.
Ctrl+Y	Redo the last undone action.
Ctrl+A	Select all text in the current document.
Del	Delete character after cursor.
Backspace	Delete character before cursor.

Navigation

Search and Replace

Home	Move cursor to the beginning of the line.	Ctrl+F	Open the search bar at the bottom.
End	Move cursor to the end of the line.	Ctrl+B	Find previous occurrence (after searching).
Ctrl+Home	Move cursor to the beginning of the document.	Ctrl+K	Find next occurrence (after searching).
Ctrl+End	Move cursor to the end of the document.	Ctrl+H	Open the replace bar at the bottom.
Ctrl+G	Go to a specific line number.	F3	Find next occurrence of the selected text or text in the
Page Up	Scroll up one page.		search bar.
Page Down	Scroll down one page.	Shift+F3	Find previous occurrence.
Ctrl+Arrow Keys	Move cursor word by word.	Alt+Enter	Find all occurrences (after search).
Shift+Arrow Keys	Select text character by character.	Search Bar Options	Case Sensitive, Whole Words Only, Regular Expressions.

Tabs, Views & Settings

Tab Management

Ctrl+T	Open a new tab.
Ctrl+Page Up	Switch to the previous tab.
Ctrl+Page Down	Switch to the next tab.
Ctrl+Alt+Page Up	Move the current tab left.
Ctrl+Alt+Page Down	Move the current tab right.
Ctrl+W	Close the current tab.
Middle Click Tab	Close a tab by middle-clicking on it.

View Options

F11	Toggle Fullscreen mode.
Ctrl+M	Toggle the bottom pane (messages, terminal, etc.). Requires plugins.
Ctrl+I	Toggle highlight mode (Syntax Highlighting).
Ctrl+L	Toggle line numbers display.
Ctrl+.	Toggle right margin display.
View Menu	Options for wrapping text, highlighting current line, highlighting matching brackets, etc.
Tools Menu	Access spell checking, sort lines, and other tool-related functions.
Document Statistics	Accessed via the Tools menu. Shows word count, line count, etc.

Preferences (Ctrl+,)

Useful Shortcuts (Misc)

View Tab: Set options for line numbers, text wrapping, right margin, current
line highlight, matching brackets, and caret blinking.

Editor Tab: Configure tab width, indentation, auto-indentation, file saving options (backup copies, trailing spaces), and line ending type.

Fonts & Colors Tab: Choose the editor font and size, and select a color scheme (syntax highlighting theme).

Plugins Tab: Enable, disable, and configure installed plugins. Essential for adding features like file browser, terminal, code snippets, etc.

Shortcuts Tab: View and customize keyboard shortcuts for various actions. You can set your own keybindings here.

External Tools Tab: Configure external commands or scripts to run from the editor (requires plugin).

Advanced Features & Tips

Plugins & Extensions

Enabling Plugins: Go to Edit > Preferences > Plugins). Check the box next to the plugin name to enable it.

Common Plugins:

- File Browser: Integrated file tree in the side pane.
- Terminal: Embedded terminal panel at the bottom.
- Snippets: Insert predefined code snippets quickly.
- External Tools: Define and run custom shell commands.
- Document Statistics: View document info.
- Spell Checker: Basic spell checking.

Installing More Plugins: Some plugins are available in your distribution's package manager (e.g., gedit-plugins) package on Debian/Ubuntu). Others might be installed manually into ~/.local/share/gedit/plugins/).

Configuring Plugins: Some plugins have configuration options available by selecting the plugin in the Preferences window and clicking 'Configure'.

Customizing UI with Plugins: Plugins can add new menu items, toolbars, side panes, or bottom panes.

Troubleshooting: If a plugin doesn't show up, check if it's installed correctly and if it's compatible with your gedit version.

Performance: Be mindful that enabling many complex plugins might slightly impact startup time or performance on older systems.

Snippets (Requires Plugin)

Enable the 'Snippets' plugin in Edit > Preferences > Plugins .	Syntax Highlighting: Ensure the correct highlighting mode is selected (bottom right corner) for better readability, especially for code.Auto Save: Configure Edit > Preferences > Editor to automatically save files periodically or create backup copies.	
Snippets allow you to insert predefined text chunks quickly by typing a trigger word and pressing Tab		
You can manage snippets via Tools > Manage Snippets		
Snippets are defined for specific programming languages (modes).	Trailing Spaces: Use Edit > Preferences > Editor to enable highlighti	
Example (Python snippet): Type def + Tab might insert a function	consistency.	
definition template.	Encoding: Pay attention to the document encoding displayed in the statu	
can jump between using Tab after insertion.	different operating systems.	
Create custom snippets for repetitive code patterns or text.	External Tools: Set up external commands (like linters, formatters, or compilers) for your programming workflow if the plugin is suitable.	
	Shortcuts Customization: Explore Edit > Preferences > Shortcuts to customize keybindings for actions you use frequently.	

Session Management: gedit remembers open tabs by default, which helps resume your work quickly after closing and reopening the editor.

Ctrl+D	Delete the current line.
Ctrl+E	Clear recent documents list (under File menu).
Alt+X	Execute command (if External Tools plugin is enabled).
Ctrl+Space	Show code completion suggestions (requires plugin & language support).
F5	Reload the document if it has been changed externally.
Ctrl+Mouse Wheel	Zoom in/out text size.
Alt+Number (1- 9)	Switch to the tab number. E.g., Alt+1 for the first tab.
Esc	Close search/replace bar or other transient elements.
Ctrl+P	Print the current document.

Split View (Requires Plugin)

Enable the 'Split View' plugin in Edit > Preferences > Plugins).

Once enabled, a 'Split View' option will appear in the 'View' menu.

View > Split View > Split Vertically or Split Horizontally to split the current tab's view.

This allows you to see different parts of the same document, or different documents side-by-side within the same tab.

Use View > Split View > Close View to close the split pane.

Navigation and editing in one pane affects the same document in the other pane (if it's the same document).

Dragging a tab header into an existing split view can place a different document there.

Tips & Best Practices