

GNU nano — Keyboard Shortcuts Cheatsheet

Source: [nano-editor.org cheatsheet](https://nano-editor.org/cheatsheet)

^ = Ctrl, M- = Alt/Meta (on most terminals, Alt or Esc-then-key)

File handling

Key	Action
Ctrl+S	Save current file
Ctrl+O	Offer to write file ("Save as")
Ctrl+R	Insert a file into current one
Ctrl+X	Close buffer, exit nano

Editing

Key	Action
Ctrl+K	Cut current line into cutbuffer
Alt+6	Copy current line into cutbuffer
Ctrl+U	Paste contents of cutbuffer
Ctrl+]	Complete current word
Alt+3	Comment / uncomment line, region
Alt+U	Undo last action
Alt+E	Redo last undone action

Search and replace

Key	Action
Ctrl+B	Start backward search
Ctrl+F	Start forward search
Alt+B	Find next occurrence backward
Alt+F	Find next occurrence forward
Alt+R	Start a replacing session

Deletion

Key	Action
Ctrl+H	Delete character before cursor
Ctrl+D	Delete character under cursor
Alt+Backspace	Delete word to the left
Ctrl+Delete	Delete word to the right
Alt+Delete	Delete current line

Operations

Key	Action
Ctrl+T	Execute some command
Ctrl+T Ctrl+S	Run a spell check
Ctrl+T Ctrl+Y	Run a syntax check
Ctrl+T Ctrl+O	Run a formatter
Tab	Indent marked region
Shift+Tab	Unindent marked region
Ctrl+J	Justify paragraph or region
Alt+J	Justify entire buffer
Alt+T	Cut until end of buffer
Alt+V	Enter next keystroke verbatim
Alt+:	Start / stop macro recording
Alt+;	Replay macro

Moving around

Key	Action
←	One character backward
→	One character forward
Ctrl+←	One word backward
Ctrl+→	One word forward
Ctrl+A	To start of line
Ctrl+E	To end of line
Ctrl+P	One line up
Ctrl+N	One line down
Ctrl+↑	To previous block
Ctrl+↓	To next block
Alt+Home	To first row in viewport
Alt+End	To last row in viewport
Ctrl+Y	One page up
Ctrl+V	One page down
Alt+\ 	To top of buffer
Alt+/ 	To end of buffer

Special movement

Key	Action
Alt+G	Go to a specified line
Alt+]	Go to complementary bracket
Alt+<	Scroll viewport left
Alt+>	Scroll viewport right
Alt+↑	Scroll viewport up
Alt+↓	Scroll viewport down
Ctrl+L	Center the current line
Alt+←	Switch to preceding buffer
Alt+→	Switch to succeeding buffer

Information

Key	Action
Ctrl+C	Report cursor position
Alt+D	Report line / word / character counts
Ctrl+G	Display help text

Toggles and various

Key	Action
Alt+A	Set or unset the mark
Alt+C	Turn constant position info on/off
Alt+N	Turn line numbers on/off
Alt+P	Turn visible whitespace on/off
Alt+S	Turn softwrapping on/off
Alt+X	Hide/unhide the help lines
Alt+Z	Hide/unhide the info bars

Quick survival kit

The four you actually need on a server at 2am:

Key	Action
Ctrl+O, Enter	Write the file
Ctrl+X	Exit
Ctrl+W	Search (older builds; Ctrl+F in nano 5+)
Alt+U	Undo when you break something