

Keyboard Commands

Using the keyboard in Mac OS for common tasks

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Using the keyboard in Mac OS for common tasks

- OS level commands: copy, paste, new file,...
- App level commands: Most of these mirror the OS but not all.
- iPadOS and Mac OS share many of the same OS level keyboard commands. App level is a hit or miss proposition.

Keyboard Commands

Why use keyboard over the mouse/trackpad?

- If you know how to type it can be much faster.
- Less hand strain. Carpal tunnel anyone?
- If a mouse is unavailable/broken/powerless.
- Personal preference.

Mac OS Commands

General and most common

- ESC key - undoes the previous command, gets you out of trouble easily.
- Command + Comma - opens the preference panel in any app, or, opens Finder Settings.
- Command + N - opens new Finder window.
- Command + C - copies whatever is selected to the clipboard.
- Command + V - pastes the contents of the clipboard.
- Command + F - finds the highlighted word.
- Command + G - finds each instance of that found word.

Continued...

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- Command + A - selects everything on the page.
- Command + Spacebar - opens Spotlight.
- Command + Tab - opens application switcher.
- Command + P - opens the print dialog window.
- Option + Command + Escape - force quits a rogue app that isn't responding.
- Control + Command + Space - opens character viewer for emoji's and symbols.
- Command + Option + D - show or hide the Dock

Navigating your desktop

Tab Key, when your mouse is unavailable

- Tab + Arrow - move between elements like links, form fields, menus,...
- Shift + Tab - reverse direction of Tab navigation.
- Enter - activate or open the selected item.
- Esc - close dialogs or exit modes.
- Control + ↑ - see all open windows.
- Control + → or ← - move forward or backward through open Spaces.

More Keyboard Commands

Screenshots

- Shift + Command + 3 - saves the entire screen as a PNG file to the desktop.
- Shift Command + 4 - use the crosshair pointer to drag out a selection to be captured.
- Shift Command + 4 + Spacebar - move camera icon over the window and click.
- Control + Shift + Command + 3 - copies screenshot to the clipboard.
- Control + Shift + Command + 4 - copies selected area to the clipboard.

Keycue

Keyboard utility

- <https://ergonis.com/keycue>
- Subscription or one-time purchase.
- <https://support.apple.com/en-us/102650>