COMMON EDITING TASKS AND THEIR EMACS KEYSTROKE COUNTERPARTS

REAL GEEKS:

1. Don't use mice unless they have to; they work faster with keystrokes. Below we supply the most common keystroke commands, which work for Unix, Linux, Emacs, and our configuration of IDL.

2. Interchange the "Caps Lock" and "Ctrl" keys, because the Ctrl key is used for many keystrokes and it needs easy access to forstall carpal tunnel problems. To do this, type "swapcaps" in any terminal; to change back, type "swapcaps" again.

3. Often don't want Emacs to open up a new window, but instead to use the current window. To accomplish this, type "emacs -nw filename".

---------- Keystroke Commands ----------

The following are the most common editing tasks and their keystroke counterparts:

IMPORTANT:
ctrl-g: Returns to basic editing; escapes any Emacs questions or loops.

CURSOR LOCATION CONTROL:
arrow keys, "Page Up/Down", "Home", and "End" work as expected
ctrl-e: move cursor to the end of the line
ctrl-a: move cursor to the beginning of the line
ctrl-x g: move cursor o line number XX; XX is prompted for.

DELETING LINE-BY-LINE (CUTTING)
ctrl-k (twice per line: once for text, once for carriage return)

RESTORING THE DELETED LINES (PASTING)
move the cursor to where you want to restore the line(s) and type
ctrl-y

MOVING OR DELETING BLOCKS OF TEXT: Three steps:

First you need to mark (HIGHLIGHT) the block of text. Set the beginning (or ending) mark with
ctrl-space
Use the arrows to highlight the block.

Second you delete the text (CUT it)
ctrl-w

Third you move the cursor to where you want to insert the text (PASTE it)
ctrl-y

If you screwed up and want to stop:
ctrl-g

UNDO:
ctrl-/: undoes what you did. You can keep undoing by repeating ctrl-/.

CONVERT TO UPPER CASE: alt-u or esc-u: You can hold the alt key down and keep punching u and it will keep going; esc-u does it only once.

CONVERT TO lower CASE: alt-l or esc-l

Capitalizing First Letter: alt-c

FILL:
You've modified the text, the text looks awful, you want it nicely formatted. Works only on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis: esc-q or alt-q

SEARCHING:
Generally, ctrl-s searches forwards and ctrl-r searches backwards

ctrl-s ctrl-w: word search. Forward searches for the exact match to what you type. Can be repeated simply by typing ctrl-s (replace ctrl-s by ctrl-r to search backwards)

ctrl-s: incremental search (searches character-by-character as you type). Can be repeated simply by typing ctrl-s.

ctrl-s enter: simple search. Cannot be repeated.
ctrl-s enter ctrl-w: simple word search. Cannot be repeated.

if you screwed up and want to stop:
ctrl-g

SEARCH AND REPLACE WITH QUERY:
F9. Asks for the search string on the bottom line of the screen. Hit enter after the string. For each find, type 'y' to replace, 'n' to not replace. To terminage, type ctrl-g.

if you screwed up and want to stop:
ctrl-g

WRITE THE FILE TO DISK (We suggest that you do this frequently!):
ctrl-s

EXITING EMACS
ctrl-x ctrl-c

CHANGE FONT SIZE: shift - left mouse button

----------advanced---------------

DEFINE A KEYBOARD MACRO:
You can dedfine a macro: a combination of sequential keystrokes that you want to execute repeatedly. To define the macro:

ctrl-x (: defines the beginning of a macro. After typing this, type the sequential keystrokes you want to execute. Aafter the last keystroke, type

ctrl-x) to end.

To execute the macro once, type
ctrl-x e

To execute the macro N types:
Esc N
ctrl-x e

ISPELL:A MARKED REGION
ctrl-x $

COUNT NR OF WORDS IN A MARKED REGION
ctrl-x w

DO EMACS WITHOUT IN CURRENT TERMINAL--NO NEW X WINDOW
emacs -nw filename ...or... mem filename

To use Carl's emacs setup you need to replace your .emacs file with his:

1. from the UNIX prompt in your home directory, rename your.emacs file so you can retrieve it again if necessary:
   mv .emacs .emacs_original

2. then copy Carl's file to yours:
   cp ~heiles/.emacs . or get it from the website.