

Helix Editor Quickstart Cheat Sheet (1/2)

Basics & Modes

- `hx <file>` to open • `:tutor` tutorial • Help: Space ?
- Modes: Normal, Insert, Select. Esc returns to Normal.
- Insert (`i,a,I,A,o,O`) • Select (`v`).
- Counts: `5j`, `3w`, `10dd`.

Insert Mode Extras

- `Ctrl-o`: one Normal command • `Ctrl-r <reg>`: insert from register.
- `Ctrl-v`: literal insert.

Open / Save / Quit

- `:o <file>` • `:new` scratch • `:w` • `:q` • `:q!` • `:wq/:x`
- `:wa` (write all) • `:wqa` (write+quit all) • `:qa` (quit all).
- `:theme <name>` • `:config-open`

Navigation

- `h/j/k/l` • `w/b/e` words • `W/B/E` big words.
- `f/F` char • `t/T` until • repeat: `Alt-.`
- `0/^` line start • `$` line end.
- `gg` top • `G` bottom • `Ctrl-u/d` half-page.
- `Ctrl-e/y` scroll line • `zt/zz/zb` recenter.

Selections & Multicursor

- `x` select line • `X` extend • `Alt-x` shrink.
- `s <regex>` select • `S` split • `K` keep • `Alt-K` remove.
- `;` collapse • `Alt-;` flip anchor • `,` keep primary.
- `C/Alt-C` duplicate cursor down/up.
- `Alt-o` expand object • `Alt-i` shrink • `Alt-p/n` siblings.
- `Alt-n` next match • `Alt-p` prev match.

Editing

- `i/a/I/A` insert • `o/O` new line.
- Undo `u` • Redo `U` • `Alt-u/U` time travel.
- Yank `y` • Paste `p/P` • Registers "`<reg>`".
- Delete `d` • Change `c` • No-yank `Alt-d/c`.
- Replace `r<char>` • `R` paste register • Indent `>/<`.
- Format `=` (LSP) • Comment toggle: `Ctrl-c` or Space `c`.

Numbers

- `Ctrl-a` increment number under cursor • `Ctrl-x` decrement.

Search

- `/` regex • `?` reverse • `n/N` next/prev.
- `*` word search • `Alt-*` literal.
- Workspace search: Space `/` • Reopen: Space `'`.

Find & Replace

- 1) Select scope (% whole file).
- 2) `s <regex>` (`S` split groups).
- 3) `c` replacement • Esc apply all.
- Regex flags: `(?i)` ignore case • `(?m)` multiline.

LSP Features

- Hover: Space `k` • Rename: Space `r` • Action: Space `a`.
- Diagnostics: Space `d` (`doc`)/`D` (`ws`).
- Goto `def/ref/type/impl`: `g d/r/y/i`.
- Symbols: Space `s` (`doc`) • Space `S` (`ws`).
- Format file: Space `=` • Format sel: `Alt-=`

Files & Buffers

- File pickers: Space `f/F` • Buffers: Space `b`.
- Next/prev buf: `g n/p` • Last mod: `g .` • Last file: `g a`.
- Window (`Ctrl-w`): `v/s` splits • `w` cycle • `h/j/k/l` move.
- `q` close • `o` only this • Swap: `H/J/K/L`.

Clipboard

- Default regs: `y/p/"<reg>`.
- System: Space `y` (yank) • Space `p/P` paste • Space `R` replace.
- Special regs: `_` blackhole • `%` filename • `.` last insert.

Config

- Config: `:config-open`.
- Path: `~/.config/helix/config.toml` • Windows `%AppData%`.
- Options: `theme="onedark"` • `line-number=relative` • `mouse=false`.
- `:config-reload` • project `.helix/config.toml`.

Discoverability

- Space `?` command palette • Space `j` jumplist • Space `g` changed files.
- `:tutor` interactive tutorial • `:help` topics.

Helix Editor Advanced Cheat Sheet (2/2)

Registers

- "0 last yank • "1–9 history • "+" system clipboard.
- "_ blackhole • "% current filename • ". last inserted text.

Marks & Jumps

- m<char> set mark • '<char> jump.
- Ctrl-o back • Ctrl-i forward.

Macros

- q<char> start • q stop.
- @<char> run • @@ repeat last.
- Macros repeat across multiple selections.

Search Tricks

- /foo.*bar regex • n/N cycle.
- Alt-/ literal search.
- Use capture groups in :pipe sed substitutions.

Code Folding

- zc close • zo open • zm fold all • zr unfold all.
- za toggle fold under cursor.

Scrolling & View

- Ctrl-e/y scroll line • Ctrl-u/d half-page.
- zt top • zz center • zb bottom.

Git Integration

- :git status • :git diff • :git stage/unstage.
- :git commit • :git blame.

External Commands

- :pipe !cmd runs selection through shell.
- Examples: :pipe sort • :pipe tr a-z A-Z.

Sessions

- :write-session <name> • :load-session to restore.

Project Navigation

- Space g changed files • Space G git files.

Diagnostics Navigation

- [d prev diagnostic •]d next diagnostic.

UI & Status

- :set ruler • :set colorcolumn=N.
- Toggle line numbers: Space n • :set line-number relative.
- Toggle mouse: :set mouse false.

Terminal Integration

- :sh open shell • :term (if available).

Command History

- :history • Space : opens command picker.

Themes

- :theme random • :theme next • :theme prev.

Help & Docs

- :tutor tutorial • :help topics.
- Website: <https://helix-editor.com/>