

# tmux cheat sheet

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(C-x means ctrl+x, M-x means alt+x)

## 🔗 Prefix key

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The default prefix is C-b. If you (or your muscle memory) prefer C-a, you need to add this to ~/.tmux.conf:

```
# remap prefix to Control + a
set -g prefix C-a
# bind 'C-a C-a' to type 'C-a'
bind C-a send-prefix
unbind C-b
```

I'm going to assume that C-a is your prefix.

## 🔗 Sessions, windows, panes

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Session is a set of windows, plus a notion of which window is current.

Window is a single screen covered with panes. (Once might compare it to a 'virtual desktop' or a 'space'.)

Pane is a rectangular part of a window that runs a specific command, e.g. a shell.

## 🔗 Getting help

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Display a list of keyboard shortcuts:

C-a ?

Navigate using Vim or Emacs shortcuts, depending on the value of `mode-keys`. Emacs is the default, and if you want Vim shortcuts for help and copy modes (e.g. j, k, C-u, C-d), add the following line to `~/.tmux.conf`:

```
setw -g mode-keys vi
```

Any command mentioned in this list can be executed as `tmux something` or `C-a :something` (or added to `~/.tmux.conf`).

## 🔗 Managing sessions

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Creating a session:

```
tmux new-session -s work
```

Create a new session that shares all windows with an existing session, but has its own separate notion of which window is current:

```
tmux new-session -s work2 -t work
```

Attach to a session:

```
tmux attach -t work
```

Detach from a session: C-a d.

Switch between sessions:

C-a (            previous session  
C-a )            next session  
C-a L            'last' (previously used) session  
C-a s            choose a session from a list

Other:

C-a \$            rename the current session  
C-a

## 🔗 Managing windows

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Create a window:

C-a c            create a new window

Switch between windows:

C-a 1 ...        switch to window 1, ..., 9, 0  
C-a 9  
C-a 0  
C-a p            previous window  
C-a n            next window  
C-a l            'last' (previously used) window  
C-a w            choose window from a list

Switch between windows with a twist:

C-a M-n         next window with a bell, activity or  
content alert

C-a M-p      previous such window

Other:

C-a ,          rename the current window

C-a &          kill the current window

## 🔗 Managing split panes

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Creating a new pane by splitting an existing one:

C-a "          split vertically (top/bottom)

C-a %          split horizontally (left/right)

Switching between panes:

C-a left        go to the next pane on the left

C-a right      (or one of these other directions)

C-a up

C-a down

C-a o          go to the next pane (cycle through all of them)

C-a ;          go to the 'last' (previously used) pane

Moving panes around:

C-a {          move the current pane to the previous position

C-a }          move the current pane to the next position

C-a C-o        rotate window 'up' (i.e. move all panes)

C-a M-o        rotate window 'down'

C-a !          move the current pane into a new separate  
window ('break pane')

```
C-a :move-pane -t :3.2
    split window 3's pane 2 and move the current pane there
```

## Resizing panes:

```
C-a M-up, C-a M-down, C-a M-left, C-a M-right
    resize by 5 rows/columns
C-a C-up, C-a C-down, C-a C-left, C-a C-right
    resize by 1 row/column
```

## Applying predefined layouts:

```
C-a M-1    switch to even-horizontal layout
C-a M-2    switch to even-vertical layout
C-a M-3    switch to main-horizontal layout
C-a M-4    switch to main-vertical layout
C-a M-5    switch to tiled layout
C-a space  switch to the next layout
```

## Other:

```
C-a x      kill the current pane
C-a q      display pane numbers for a short while
```

## 🔗 Other config file settings

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Force a reload of the config file on C-a r:

```
unbind r
bind r source-file ~/.tmux.conf
```

## Some other settings that I use:

```
setw -g xterm-keys on
```



**ffish** commented on Jun 4, 2013

^A is beginning of line – personally leave it at ^B



**oeeckhoutte** commented on Sep 6, 2013

It's the same for me it's ^B. Thanks for the tips :)



**LeftyBC** commented on Sep 23, 2013

I change the prefix to ^A, but "**^A a**" passes through that ^A to do beginning-of-line, so I don't miss it.



**amiel** commented on Sep 25, 2013

I use ^T, which is pretty handy in dvorak



**igbanam** commented on Oct 14, 2013

Thanks for the recipe (:

**djblue** commented on Oct 24, 2013



Very handy. Thanks!



**anselmo** commented on Jan 15, 2014

Ace!



**droope** commented on Feb 19, 2014

This is great! thanks



**sukima** commented on Feb 25, 2014

I wouldn't mind going for ^B but my muscle memory is so used to the old days with screen that I can't undo ^A.



**ryanwilsonperkin** commented on Mar 14, 2014

Had my own reservations about switching to ^A since I'm used to using it for start of line in bash & zsh, however tapping it twice (^A^A) mimics the old ^A behaviour. Since discovering that I've been happy with the change.



**xavierartot** commented on Mar 21, 2014

How reload the tmux.conf ?

```
33 unbind r
```

```
34 bind r source-file ~/.tmux.conf
```

Then i hit r + return ?

Thanks



**akartynnik** commented on Mar 26, 2014

Close all tmux sessions, or run: `tmux kill-server`. Then start new session: `tmux new -s session_name`  
Session is closed by pressing `Ctrl-d`



**hauleth** commented on Apr 11, 2014

Personally I use `^q` as I often use `^A` in Vim.



**EvanCarroll** commented on May 26, 2014

You should say what `setw -g xterm-keys` on actually does.



**mattaudesse** commented on May 28, 2014

This is great! Very handy.