



# Helix 23.10 cheat sheet

## Normal mode: Movement

Normal mode is the default mode when you launch Helix. Return to it from other modes by typing Escape.

NOTE: Unlike Vim, F, Shift+F, T and Shift+T are not confined to the current line.

H or Left arrow	Move left
J or Down arrow	Move down
K or Up arrow	Move up
L or Right arrow	Move right
W	Move next word start
B	Move previous word start
E	Move next word end
Shift + W	Move next word start
Shift + B	Move previous word start
Shift + E	Move next word end
T	Find until next char
F	Find next char
Shift + T	Find until previous char
Shift + F	Find previous char
Shift + G	Go to line number
Alt + .	Repeat last motion (f, t or m)
Home	Move to the start of the line
End	Move to the end of the line
Ctrl + B or Page Up	Move page up
Ctrl + F or Page Down	Move page down
Ctrl + U	Move half page up
Ctrl + D	Move half page down
Ctrl + I	Jump forward on the jumplist
Ctrl + O	Jump backward on the jumplist
Ctrl + S	Save the current selection to the jumplist

## Normal mode: Changes

R	Replace with a character
Shift + R	Replace with yanked text
~	Switch case of the selected text
`	Set the selected text to lower case

Alt + `	Set the selected text to upper case
I	Insert before selection
A	Insert after selection (append)
Shift + I	Insert at the start of the line
Shift + A	Insert at the end of the line
O	Open new line below selection
Shift + O	Open new line above selection
.	Repeat last insert
U	Undo change
Shift + U	Redo change
Alt + U	Move backward in history
Alt + Shift + U	Move forward in history
Y	Yank selection
P	Paste after selection
Shift + P	Paste before selection
"	: Select a register to yank to or paste from
>	Indent selection
<	Unindent selection
=	Format selection (currently nonfunctional/disabled) (LSP)
D	Delete selection
Alt + D	Delete selection, without yanking
C	Change selection (delete and enter insert mode)
Alt + C	Change selection (delete and enter insert mode, without yanking)
Ctrl + A	Increment object (number) under cursor
Ctrl + X	Decrement object (number) under cursor
Shift + Q	Start/stop macro recording to the selected register (experimental)
Q	Play back a recorded macro from the selected register (experimental)

## Normal mode: Shell

	Pipe each selection through shell command, replacing with
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	output
Alt +	Pipe each selection into shell command, ignoring output
!	Run shell command, inserting output before each selection
Alt + !	Run shell command, appending output after each selection
\$	Pipe each selection into shell command, keep selections where command returned 0

## Normal mode: Selection manipulation

S	Select all regex matches inside selections
Shift + S	Split selection into sub selections on regex matches
Alt + S	Split selection on newlines
Alt + -	Merge selections
Alt + _	Merge consecutive selections
&	Align selection in columns
_	Trim whitespace from the selection
;	Collapse selection onto a single cursor
Alt + ;	Flip selection cursor and anchor
Alt + :	Ensures the selection is in forward direction
,	Keep only the primary selection
Alt + ,	Remove the primary selection
C	Copy selection onto the next line (Add cursor below)
Alt + C	Copy selection onto the previous line (Add cursor above)
(	Rotate main selection backward
)	Rotate main selection forward
Alt + (	Rotate selection contents backward
Alt + )	Rotate selection contents forward
%	Select entire file
X	Select current line, if already selected, extend to next line

Shift + X	Extend selection to line bounds (line-wise selection)
Alt + X	Shrink selection to line bounds (line-wise selection)
J	Join lines inside selection
Alt + Shift + J	Join lines inside selection and select the inserted space
Shift + K	Keep selections matching the regex
Alt + Shift + K	Remove selections matching the regex
Ctrl + C	Comment/uncomment the selections
Alt + O or Alt + Up arrow	Expand selection to parent syntax node (TS)
Alt + I,	Alt-down Shrink syntax tree object selection (TS)
Alt + P or Alt + Left arrow	Select previous sibling node in syntax tree (TS)
Alt + N or Alt + Right arrow	Select next sibling node in syntax tree (TS)

## Normal mode: Search

Search commands all operate on the / register by default. To use a different register, use ".

/	Search for regex pattern
?	Search for previous pattern
N	Select next search match
Shift + N	Select previous search match
*	Use current selection as the search pattern

## Normal mode: Minor modes

These sub-modes are accessible from normal mode and typically switch back to normal mode after a command.

V	Enter select (extend) mode
G	Enter goto mode
M	Enter match mode
:	Enter command mode
Z	Enter view mode
Shift + Z	Enter sticky view mode

Ctrl + W	Enter window mode
Space	Enter space mode

These modes (except command mode) can be configured by remapping keys.

## Normal mode: View mode

Z	View mode is accessed by typing z in normal mode
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View mode is intended for scrolling and manipulating the view without changing the selection. The "sticky" variant of this mode (accessed by typing Z in normal mode) is persistent and can be exited using the escape key. This is useful when you're simply looking over text and not actively editing it.

Z or C	Vertically center the line
T	Align the line to the top of the screen
B	Align the line to the bottom of the screen
M	Align the line to the middle of the screen (horizontally)
J or Down arrow	Scroll the view downwards
K or Up arrow	Scroll the view upwards
Ctrl + F or Page Down	Move page down
Ctrl + B or Page Up	Move page up
Ctrl + D	Move half page down
Ctrl + U	Move half page up

## Normal mode: Goto mode

G	Goto mode is accessed by typing g in normal mode.
G	Go to line number else start of file
E	Go to the end of the file
F	Go to files in the selection
H	Go to the start of the line
L	Go to the end of the line
S	Go to first non-whitespace character of the line
T	Go to the top of the screen
C	Go to the middle of the screen

B	Go to the bottom of the screen
D	Go to definition (LSP)
Y	Go to type definition (LSP)
R	Go to references (LSP)
I	Go to implementation (LSP)
A	Go to the last accessed/alternate file
M	Go to the last modified/alternate file
N	Go to next buffer
P	Go to previous buffer
.	Go to last modification in current file
J	Move down textual (instead of visual) line
K	Move up textual (instead of visual) line

## Normal mode: Match mode

Accessed by typing m in normal mode.

M	Goto matching bracket (TS)
S	: Surround current selection with
R	: Replace surround character with
D	: Delete surround character
A	: Select around textobject
I	: Select inside textobject

## Normal mode: Window mode

Ctrl + W	Access Windows mode
This layer is similar to Vim keybindings as Kakoune does not support windows.	
W	Switch to next window
Ctrl +	W
V	Vertical right split
Ctrl +	V
S or Ctrl + S	Horizontal bottom split
F	Go to files in the selection in horizontal splits
F	Go to files in the selection in vertical splits

H or Ctrl + H or Left arrow	Move to left split
J or Ctrl + J or Down arrow	Move to split below
K or Ctrl + K or Up arrow	Move to split above
L or Ctrl + I or Right arrow	Move to right split
Q	Close current window
O	Only keep the current window, closing all the others
H	Swap window to the left
J	Swap window downwards
K	Swap window upwards
L	Swap window to the right

## Normal mode: Space mode

Space	Access space mode
This layer is a kludge of mappings, mostly pickers.	
F	Open file picker
Shift + F	Open file picker at current working directory
B	Open buffer picker
J	Open jumplist picker
G	Debug (experimental)
K	Show documentation for item under cursor in a popup (LSP)
S	Open document symbol picker (LSP)
S	Open workspace symbol picker (LSP)
D	Open document diagnostics picker (LSP)
Shift + D	Open workspace diagnostics picker (LSP)
R	Rename symbol (LSP)
A	Apply code action (LSP)
H	Select symbol references (LSP)
'	Open last fuzzy picker
W	Enter window mode
P	Paste system clipboard after selections

P	Paste system clipboard before selections
Y	Yank selections to clipboard
Shift + Y	Yank main selection to clipboard
Shift + R	Replace selections by clipboard contents
/	Global search in workspace folder
?	Open command palette

Tip: Global search displays results in a fuzzy picker, use Space + ' to bring it back up after opening a file.

## Normal mode: Popup

Displays documentation for item under cursor.

Ctrl + U	Scroll up
Ctrl + D	Scroll down

## Normal: Unimpaired

These mappings are in the style of vim-unimpaired.

] then D	Go to next diagnostic (LSP)
[ then D	Go to previous diagnostic (LSP)
] then Shift + D	Go to last diagnostic in document (LSP)
[ then Shift + D	Go to first diagnostic in document (LSP)
] then F	Go to next function (TS)
[ then F	Go to previous function (TS)
] then T	Go to next type definition (TS)
[ then T	Go to previous type definition (TS)
] then A	Go to next argument/parameter (TS)
[ then A	Go to previous argument/parameter (TS)
] then C	Go to next comment (TS)
[ then C	Go to previous comment (TS)
] then Shift + T	Go to next test (TS)
[ then Shift + T	Go to previous test (TS)
] then P	Go to next paragraph
[ then P	Go to previous paragraph
] then G	Go to next change

[ then G	Go to previous change
] then Shift + G	Go to last change
[ then Shift + G	Go to first change
] then Space	Add newline below
[ then Space	Add newline above

## Normal mode: Insert mode

I	Accessed insert mode
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Insert mode bindings are minimal by default. Helix is designed to be a modal editor, and this is reflected in the user experience and internal mechanics. Changes to the text are only saved for undos when escaping from insert mode to normal mode.

Tip: It is recommended for new users to learn the modal editing paradigm to get the smoothest experience.

Esc	Switch to normal mode
Ctrl + S	Commit undo checkpoint
Ctrl + X	Autocomplete
Ctrl + R	Insert a register content
Ctrl + W or Alt + Backspace	Delete previous word
Alt + D or Alt + Del	Delete next word
Ctrl + U	Delete to start of line
Ctrl + K	Delete to end of line
Ctrl + H or Backspace or Shift + Backspace	Delete previous char
Ctrl + D or Del	Delete next char
Ctrl + J or Enter	Insert new line

These keys are not recommended, but are included for new users less familiar with modal editors.

Up arrow	Move to previous line
Down arrow	Move to next line
Left arrow	Backward a char
Right arrow	Forward a char
Page Up	Move one page up
Page Down	Move one page down
Home	Move to line start
End	Move to line end

As you become more comfortable with modal editing, you may want to disable some insert mode bindings.

You can do this by editing your config.toml file.

Select	/ extend mode
V	Accessed Select / extend mode

Select mode echoes Normal mode, but changes any movements to extend selections rather than replace them. Goto motions are also changed to extend, so that vgl, for example, extends the selection to the end of the line.

Search is also affected. By default, n and N will remove the current selection and select the next instance of the search term. Toggling this mode before pressing n or N makes it possible to keep the current selection. Toggling it on and off during your iterative searching allows you to selectively add search terms to your selections.

Picker:

Keys to use within picker. Remapping currently not supported.

Shift + Tab or Ctrl + P	Previous entry
Tab or Down arrow or Ctrl + N	Next entry
Page Up or Ctrl + U	Page up
Page Down or Ctrl + D	Page down
Home	Go to first entry
End	Go to last entry
Enter	Open selected
Alt + Enter	Open selected in the background without closing the picker
Ctrl + S	Open horizontally
Ctrl + V	Open vertically
CtrlTt	Toggle preview
Esc or Ctrl + C	Close picker

## Prompt

Keys to use within prompt, Remapping is not possible currently.

Esc or Ctrl + C	Close prompt
Alt + B or Ctrl + Left arrow	Backward a word
Ctrl + B or Left	Backward a char

arrow	
Alt + F or Ctrl + Right arrow	Forward a word
Ctrl + F or Right arrow	Forward a char
Ctrl + E or End	Move prompt end
Ctrl + A or Home	Move prompt start
Ctrl + W or Alt + Backspace or Ctrl + Backspace	Delete previous word
Alt + D or Alt + Del or Ctrl + Del	Delete next word
Ctrl + U	Delete to start of line
Ctrl + K	Delete to end of line
Backspace or Ctrl + H or Shift + Backspace	Delete previous char
Del or Ctrl + D	Delete next char
Ctrl + D	Insert a word under doc cursor, may be changed to Ctrl-r Ctrl-w later
Ctrl + P or Up arrow	Select previous history
Ctrl + N or Down arrow	Select next history
Ctrl + R	Insert the content of the register selected by following input char
Tab	Select next completion item
Shift + Tab	Select previous completion item
Enter	Open selected

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More information: [defkey.com/af/helix-23-10-shortcuts](https://defkey.com/af/helix-23-10-shortcuts)

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