Reserved Mac cheat sheet

Shortcuts used by the system

These shortcuts are used by macOS system. To avoid conflicts, you shouldn't use them in your application.

Note: As you may have noticed, this list is aimed to Mac app developers. If you're looking for general macOS shortcuts, please click here.

Cmd + Space	Show or hide the Spotlight search field (when multiple languages are installed, may rotate through enabled script systems).
Shift + Cmd + Space	Varies. Apple Reserved.
Option + Cmd + Space	Show the Spotlight search results window (when multiple languages are installed, may rotate through keyboard layouts and input methods within a script).
Control + Cmd + Space	Show the Special Characters window.
Shift + Tab	Navigate through controls in a reverse direction.
Cmd + Tab	Move forward to the next most recently used app in a list of open apps.
Shift + Cmd + Tab	Move backward through a list of open apps (sorted by recent use).
Control + Tab	Move focus to the next group of controls in a dialog or the next table (when Tab moves to the next cell).
Control + Shift + Tab	Move focus to the previous group of controls.
Option + Cmd + Esc	Open the Force Quit dialog.
Control + Cmd + Eject	Quit all apps (after changes have been saved to open documents) and restart the computer.
Control + Option + Cmd + Eject	Quit all apps (after changes have been saved to open documents) and shut the computer down.
Control + F1	Toggle full keyboard access on or off.

Control + F2	Move focus to the menu bar.
Control + F3	Move focus to the Dock.
Control + F4	Move focus to the active (or next) window.
Control + Shift + F4	Move focus to the previously active window.
Control + F5	Move focus to the toolbar.
Cmd + F5	Turn VoiceOver on or off.
Control + F6	Move focus to the first (or next) panel.
Control + Shift + F6	Move focus to the previous panel.
Control + F7	Temporarily override the current keyboard access mode in windows and dialogs.
F8 or F9 or F10	Varies. Apple Reserved.
F11	Show desktop.
F12	Hide or display Dashboard.
Cmd + `	Activate the next open window in the frontmost app.
Shift + Cmd + `	Activate the previous open window in the frontmost app.
Option + Cmd + `	Move focus to the window drawer.
Cmd + -	Decrease the size of the selection.
Option + Cmd + -	Zoom out when screen zooming is on.
Control + Option + Cmd + ,	Decrease screen contrast.
Control + Option + Cmd + .	Increase screen contrast.
Cmd + ?	Open the app's Help menu.
Option + Cmd + /	Turn font smoothing on or off.
Shift + Cmd + =	Increase the size of the selection.
Option + Cmd + =	Zoom in when screen zooming is on.
Shift + Cmd + 3	Capture the screen to a file.
Control + Shift + Cmd + 3	Capture the screen to the Clipboard.
Shift + Cmd + 4	Capture a selection to a file.
Control + Shift +	Capture a selection to the

Cmd + 4	Clipboard.
Option + Cmd + 8	Turn screen zooming on or off.
Control + Option + Cmd + 8	Invert the screen colors.
Option + Cmd + D	Show or hide the Dock.
Shift + Cmd + Q	Log out the current user.
Option + Shift + Cmd + Q	Log out the current user without confirmation.
Cmd + Right arrow	Change the keyboard layout to current layout of Roman script.
Shift + Cmd + Right arrow	Extend selection to the next semantic unit, typically the end of the current line.
Shift + Right arrow	Extend selection one character to the right.
Option + Shift + Right arrow	Extend selection to the end of the current word, then to the end of the next word.
Control + Right arrow	Move focus to another value or cell within a view, such as a table.
Cmd + Left arrow	Change the keyboard layout to current layout of system script.
Shift + Cmd + Left arrow	Extend selection to the previous semantic unit, typically the beginning of the current line.
Shift + Left arrow	Extend selection one character to the left.
Option + Shift + Left arrow	Extend selection to the beginning of the current word, then to the beginning of the previous word.
Control + Left arrow	Move focus to another value or cell within a view, such as a table.
Shift + Cmd + Up arrow	Extend selection upward in the next semantic unit, typically the beginning of the document.
Shift + Up arrow	Extend selection to the line above, to the nearest character boundary at the same horizontal location.
Option + Shift + Up arrow	Extend selection to the beginning of the current paragraph, then to the beginning of the next paragraph.

Control + Up arrow	Move focus to another value or cell within a view, such as a table.
Shift + Cmd + Down arrow	Extend selection downward in the next semantic unit, typically the end of the document.
Shift + Down arrow	Extend selection to the line below, to the nearest character boundary at the same horizontal location.
Option + Shift + Down arrow	Extend selection to the end of the current paragraph, then to the end of the next paragraph (include the paragraph terminator, such as Return, in cut, copy, and paste operations).
Control + Down arrow	Move focus to another value or cell within a view, such as a table.

Expected shortcuts

These shortcuts aren't used by system, but they're expected to provide similar functionality among the programs. Therefore it's better if you avoid giving them to different functions in your software.

Cmd + {	Left-align a selection.
Cmd + }	Right-align a selection.
Cmd + |	Center-align a selection.
Cmd + :	Display the Spelling window.
Cmd + ;	Find misspelled words in the document.
Cmd + ,	Open the app's preferences window.
Cmd + A	Selects every item in a document or window, or all characters in a text field.
Shift + Cmd + A	Deselects all selections or characters.
Cmd + B	Boldface the selected text or toggle boldfaced text on and off.
Cmd + C	Copy the selection to the Clipboard.
Shift + Cmd + C	Display the Colors window.
Option + Cmd + C	Copy the style of the selected text.

Control + Cmd + C	Copy the formatting settings of the selection and store on the Clipboard.
Control + Cmd + D	Display the definition of the selected word in the Dictionary app.
Cmd + E	Use the selection for a find operation.
Cmd + F	Open a Find window.
Option + Cmd + F	Jump to the search field control.
Control + Cmd + F	Enter full screen.
Cmd + G	Find the next occurrence of the selection.
Shift + Cmd + G	Find the previous occurrence of the selection.
Cmd + H	Hide the windows of the currently running app.
Option + Cmd + H	Hide the windows of all other running apps.
Cmd + I	Italicize the selected text or toggle italic text on or off.
Cmd + I	Display an Info window.
Option + Cmd + I	Display an inspector window.
Cmd + J	Scroll to a selection.
Cmd + M	Minimize the active window to the Dock.
Option + Cmd + M	Minimize all windows of the active app to the Dock.
Cmd + N	Open a new document.
Cmd + O	Display a dialog for choosing a document to open.
Cmd + P	Display the Print dialog.
Shift + Cmd + P	Display the Page Setup dialog.
Cmd + Q	Quit the app.
Cmd + S	Save a new document or save a version of a document.
Shift + Cmd + S	Duplicate the active document or initiate a Save As.
Cmd + T	Display the Fonts window.
Option + Cmd + T	Show or hide a toolbar.
Cmd + U	Underline the selected text or turn underlining on or off.
Cmd + V	Paste the Clipboard contents at

	the insertion point.
Shift + Cmd + V	Paste as (Paste as Quotation, for example).
Option + Cmd + V	Apply the style of one object to the selection.
Option + Shift + Cmd + V	Paste the Clipboard contents at the insertion point and apply the style of the surrounding text to the inserted object.
Control + Cmd + V	Apply formatting settings to the selection.
Cmd + W	Close the active window.
Shift + Cmd + W	Close a file and its associated windows.
Option + Cmd + W	Close all windows in the app.
Cmd + X	Remove the selection and store on the Clipboard.
Cmd + Z	Undo the previous operation.
Shift + Cmd + Z	Redo (when Undo and Redo are separate commands rather than toggled using Command-Z).

Reserved international shortcuts

These keyboard shortcuts are reserved by system for the use with localized versions of the system, localized keyboards, keyboard layouts and input methods. Therefore again, you wouldn't want to use these key combinations in your application.

Cmd + Space	Rotate through enabled script systems.
Option + Cmd + Space	Rotate through keyboard layouts and input methods within a script.
Modifier_key + Cmd + Space	Varies. Apple reserved.
Cmd + Right arrow	Change keyboard layout to current layout of Roman script.
Cmd + Left arrow	Change keyboard layout to current layout of system script.

Other considerations

There are some recommendations from Apple when it comes to defining keyboard shortcuts for your program. Here are some of them:

Keyboard shortcuts for standard menu items should be consistent in all apps.

Define new keyboard shortcuts only for things people do regularly

In general, don't override standard keyboard shortcuts

Prefer the Command key as the main modifier. Prefer the Shift key as a secondary modifier when a shortcut complements another shortcut.

Do not use Option key very often.

Avoid Control key as a modifier as much as possible. It is often used by the system and may cause conflicts when you use. Only use if necessary.

For shortcuts with more than one modifier, use this order when listing them: Control, Option, Shift, Command.

Source: Apple Human Interface Guidelines

Last modification: 8/30/2020 10:23:11 PM

More information: *defkey.com/reserved-apple-macos-shortcuts*

Customize this PDF...