tmux_cheatsheet

tmux keeps terminal sessions running in the background and splits one terminal into windows and panes. Most shortcuts start with the prefix key: press it, release, then press the next key. The default prefix is Ctrl+b; pick yours below and every shortcut updates. Click a command to copy it.

0:sessions

18 lines

Groups of windows that keep running after you disconnect.

Start a new session

```
$ tmux   $ tmux new   :new
```

Start a new session with a name

```
$ tmux new -s mysession   :new -s mysession
```

List all sessions

Ctrl b then s

```
$ tmux ls
```

Attach to the last session

```
$ tmux a
```

Attach to a session by name

```
$ tmux a -t mysession
```

Attach and detach every other client

```
$ tmux a -d -t mysession
```

Detach from the session

Ctrl b then d

Detach other clients from the session

```
:attach -d
```

Pick a client to detach

Ctrl b then D

Rename the current session

Ctrl b then $

Preview sessions and windows

Ctrl b then w

Switch to the previous session

Ctrl b then (

Switch to the next session

Ctrl b then)

Kill the current session

```
:kill-session
```

Kill a session by name

```
$ tmux kill-session -t mysession
```

Kill every session except the current one

```
$ tmux kill-session -a
```

Kill every session except mysession

```
$ tmux kill-session -a -t mysession
```

Kill the tmux server and every session

```
$ tmux kill-server
```

1:windows

14 lines

Full-screen tabs inside a session, numbered from 0.

Start a session with a named window

```
$ tmux new -s mysession -n mywindow
```

Create a window

Ctrl b then c

Rename the current window

Ctrl b then ,

Close the current window

Ctrl b then &

Go to the previous window

Ctrl b then p

Go to the next window

Ctrl b then n

Go to a window by number

Ctrl b then 0…9

Toggle the last active window

Ctrl b then l

Find a window by name or content

Ctrl b then f

Move the window to another number

Ctrl b then .

Swap window 2 with window 1

```
:swap-window -s 2 -t 1
```

Move the current window one position left

```
:swap-window -t -1
```

Move a window to another session

```
:move-window -s src:win -t dst:win
```

Renumber windows to close gaps

```
:move-window -r
```

2:panes

19 lines

Splits inside a window. Each pane runs its own shell.

Split into top and bottom

Ctrl b then "

:split-window

Split into left and right

Ctrl b then %

:split-window -h

Move to the pane in a direction

Ctrl b then ←↑↓→

Toggle the last active pane

Ctrl b then ;

Go to the next pane

Ctrl b then o

Show pane numbers, then type one to jump

Ctrl b then q

Zoom or unzoom the current pane

Ctrl b then z

Swap with the previous pane

Ctrl b then {

Swap with the next pane

Ctrl b then }

Rotate the panes in the window

Ctrl b then Ctrl o

Cycle through pane layouts

Ctrl b then Space

Pick a preset layout

Ctrl b then Alt 1…5

Turn the pane into its own window

Ctrl b then !

Resize the pane

Ctrl b then Ctrl ←↑↓→

:resize-pane -D 5

Close the current pane

Ctrl b then x

Show a clock in the pane

Ctrl b then t

Join window 2 into window 1 as a pane

:join-pane -s 2 -t 1

Move pane 2.1 into window 1

:join-pane -s 2.1 -t 1.0

Type in every pane at once

:setw synchronize-panes

3:copy-mode

20 lines

Scroll back, search and copy text. Keys below assume vi mode.

Enter copy mode

Ctrl b then [

Enter copy mode and scroll up a page

Ctrl b then PgUp

Quit copy mode

q

Go to the top / bottom

g / G

Move the cursor

h / j / k / l

Jump forward / back one word

w / b

Search forward / backward

/ / ?

Next / previous match

n / N

Start a selection

Space

Clear the selection

Esc

Copy the selection

Enter

Paste the latest buffer

Ctrl b then]

Use vi keys in copy mode

:setw -g mode-keys vi

Use emacs keys in copy mode

:setw -g mode-keys emacs

Show the latest buffer

:show-buffer

Capture the visible pane into a buffer

:capture-pane

List all buffers

:list-buffers

Pick a buffer and paste it

:choose-buffer

Save the buffer to a file

:save-buffer buf.txt

Delete buffer 1

:delete-buffer -b 1

4:config

7 lines

```
# Run these at the prompt, or put them in
~/.tmux.conf without the colon to keep them.
```

Change the prefix to Ctrl+a

```
:set -g prefix C-a  :unbind C-b  :bind C-a send-prefix
```

Turn on mouse support

```
:set -g mouse on
```

Number windows and panes from 1

```
:set -g base-index 1  :setw -g pane-base-index 1
```

Reload the config with prefix r

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

Reload the config file now

```
:source-file ~/.tmux.conf
```

Set an option for all sessions

```
:set -g OPTION
```

Set an option for all windows

```
:setw -g OPTION
```

5:help

4 lines

```
# The command prompt, and where to look when
you forget.
```

Open the command prompt

Ctrl b then :

List all key bindings

Ctrl b then ?

```
$ tmux list-keys
```

List every window and pane

```
$ tmux list-windows -a  $ tmux list-panes -a
```

Show tmux messages

Ctrl b then ~

Updated Nov 8, 2026 · checked against tmux 3.x · sources: tmux manual, tmux wiki

Made by Lucas Bittencourt. Free, no ads, no tracking. Spotted a mistake? Tell me.