

TmuxAI Tmux Cheat Sheet

Note: `C-b` means holding `Ctrl` and pressing `b`. This is the default prefix. After pressing `C-b`, release the keys and then press the next key for the command.

Essential Commands

Most critical commands to get started with tmux

Session Management

Command / Keybinding	Description
<code>tmux</code>	Start a new session
<code>tmux new -s name</code>	Start a new named session
<code>tmux ls</code>	List all sessions
<code>tmux a</code>	Attach to last session
<code>tmux a -t name</code>	Attach to specific session
<code>C-b d</code>	Detach from current session
<code>C-b \$</code>	Rename current session

Window Operations

Keybinding	Description
C-b c	Create a new window
C-b	Rename current window
C-b n	Move to next window
C-b p	Move to previous window
C-b w	List all windows
C-b 0-9	Switch to window number 0-9
C-b &	Kill current window

Pane Operations

Keybinding	Description
C-b %	Split pane vertically
C-b "	Split pane horizontally
C-b ←↑→↓	Navigate between panes (Arrow keys)
C-b o	Go to next pane
C-b z	Toggle pane zoom
C-b x	Kill current pane
C-b Ctrl+←↑→↓	Resize pane (Hold Ctrl and press arrow keys)

Copy Mode & Scrolling

Keybinding	Description	Notes
<code>C-b</code>	Enter copy mode	
<code>q</code>	Exit copy mode	<i>When in copy mode</i>
<code>PgUp/PgDown</code>	Scroll page up/down	<i>When in copy mode</i>
<code>←↑→↓</code>	Move cursor	<i>When in copy mode</i>
<code>Space</code>	Start selection	<i>When in copy mode</i>
<code>Enter</code>	Copy selection	<i>When in copy mode</i>
<code>C-b]</code>	Paste copied text	

Session Management

Complete reference for creating, navigating, and manipulating tmux sessions

Command Line Management

Command	Description
<code>tmux</code>	Start a new tmux session (<i>Creates unnamed session</i>)
<code>tmux new -s mysession</code>	Start a new named session (<i>Replace "mysession" with your session name</i>)
<code>tmux new -s mysession -n mywindow</code>	Start a new session with a named window
<code>tmux attach</code>	Attach to the most recently used session

<code>tmux attach -t mysession</code>	Attach to a specific session by name
<code>tmux ls</code>	List all running sessions
<code>tmux kill-session -t mysession</code>	Kill/delete a specific session
<code>tmux kill-server</code>	Kill the tmux server and all sessions <i>(Use with caution - terminates all sessions)</i>
<code>tmux switch -t mysession</code>	Switch to a specific session <i>(from within tmux)</i>
<code>tmux rename-session -t old-name new-name</code>	Rename a session from outside tmux

Key Bindings

Keybinding	Description
<code>C-b d</code>	Detach from current session <i>(Session continues running in background)</i>
<code>C-b \$</code>	Rename current session <i>(Shows prompt to enter new name)</i>
<code>C-b)</code>	Switch to next session <i>(Cycles through available sessions)</i>
<code>C-b</code>	Switch to previous session <i>(Cycles through available sessions)</i>
<code>C-b s</code>	Show session list <i>(Interactive session browser)</i>
<code>C-b D</code>	Choose client to detach <i>(Useful when multiple clients attached)</i>
<code>C-b :new -s name</code>	Create new session <i>(Uses command mode to create session)</i>
<code>C-b L</code>	Switch to last session <i>(Requires custom keybinding in .tmux.conf)</i>

Window Operations

Complete reference for managing tmux windows

Basic Operations

Keybinding	Description
C-b c	Create a new window <i>(Added at the end of the list)</i>
C-b ,	Rename current window <i>(Enter new name when prompted)</i>
C-b &	Kill current window <i>(Prompts for confirmation)</i>
C-b w	List all windows <i>(Shows interactive window list)</i>
C-b f	Find window by name <i>(Enter part of window name to search)</i>

Window Navigation

Keybinding	Description
C-b n	Next window
C-b p	Previous window
C-b 1	Last active window <i>(Toggle between current and previous)</i>
C-b 0-9	Go to window number 0-9
C-b	Go to window by index <i>(Prompts for window index)</i>

Window Arrangement

Keybinding	Description
<code>C-b</code>	Move window to index <i>(Prompts for new index)</i>
<code>C-b :</code>	Enter command mode <i>(Type "swap-window -t " to swap windows)</i>
<code>C-b {</code>	Swap with previous window <i>(Custom binding in .tmux.conf)</i>
<code>C-b }</code>	Swap with next window <i>(Custom binding in .tmux.conf)</i>

Command Line Management

Command	Description
<code>tmux new-window</code>	Create a new window
<code>tmux new-window -n name</code>	Create a new window with specified name <i>(Replace "name" with your window name)</i>
<code>tmux select-window -t :0-9</code>	Select window by index (0-9)
<code>tmux select-window -t :name</code>	Select window by name
<code>tmux rename-window "new name"</code>	Rename current window
<code>tmux kill-window</code>	Kill current window
<code>tmux list-windows</code>	List all windows in current session

Pane Operations

Complete reference for creating, navigating, and manipulating panes

Creation

Keybinding	Description
C-b %	Split pane vertically (left/right)
C-b "	Split pane horizontally (top/bottom)
C-b !	Convert pane into a window <i>(Creates a new window with this pane)</i>
C-b x	Kill (close) the current pane

Navigation

Keybinding	Description
C-b ↑↓↔	Move between panes in the indicated direction
C-b o	Go to next pane (cycle through all panes)
C-b ;	Go to the previously active pane
C-b q	Show pane numbers (press number to jump to that pane) <i>(Numbers appear briefly - press the number key quickly)</i>
C-b z	Toggle zoom (maximize/restore) current pane

Resizing

Keybinding	Description
C-b Ctrl+←↑→↓	Resize current pane in the indicated direction <i>(Hold Ctrl while pressing arrow keys after prefix)</i>
C-b Alt+←↑→↓	Resize panes in steps of 5 cells <i>(Hold Alt (Meta) while pressing arrow keys after prefix)</i>
C-b :resize-pane -D 10	Resize down by 10 cells <i>(Can use -U (up), L (left), -R (right))</i>
C-b {	Swap current pane with the previous pane
C-b }	Swap current pane with the next pane

Layouts

Keybinding	Description
C-b space	Cycle through preset layouts
C-b Alt+1	Switch to even-horizontal layout
C-b Alt+2	Switch to even-vertical layout
C-b Alt+3	Switch to main-horizontal layout
C-b Alt+4	Switch to main-vertical layout
C-b Alt+5	Switch to tiled layout

Copy Mode & Scrollback

Complete reference for navigating, selecting, and copying text

Basic Operations

Keybinding	Description
<code>C-b [</code>	Enter copy mode
<code>q</code>	Exit copy mode
<code>C-b]</code>	Paste copied text (<i>Paste content after copying</i>)

Navigation (*in Copy Mode*)

Key(s)	Description
<code>↑, ↓, ←, →</code>	Move cursor (<i>In vi mode: h, j, k, l</i>)
<code>PgUp, PgDn</code>	Scroll up/down one page
<code>g</code>	Go to top of buffer (<i>In vi mode: gg</i>)
<code>G</code>	Go to bottom of buffer (<i>In vi mode: G</i>)
<code>H, M, L</code>	Move to top/middle/bottom of screen
<code>w, b</code>	Move forward/backward one word
<code>0, ^, \$</code>	Start/first non-space/end of line

Selection & Copying *(in Copy Mode)*

Key(s)	Description
Space	Start selection <i>(In vi mode: v)</i>
Enter	Copy selection and exit copy mode <i>(In vi mode: y)</i>
Esc	Clear selection
A	Append selection to buffer
R	Rectangle toggle (block selection) <i>(In vi mode: C-v)</i>

Search *(in Copy Mode)*

Key(s)	Description
/	Forward search <i>(Type text and press Enter)</i>
?	Backward search <i>(Type text and press Enter)</i>
n	Next search match
N	Previous search match
C-r	Incremental reverse search <i>(Vim-style)</i>
C-s	Incremental forward search <i>(Vim-style)</i>