

Sidebar

Programming · VS Code Snippets and Emmet Cheat Sheet

Writing your own snippets, the snippet syntax, and Emmet's HTML and CSS shortcuts with their settings. Exact name, what it does, and its default. Sheet 12 in the VS Code series.

SNIPPETS: THE BASICS

- Snippets: Configure Snippets** Command Palette: create or edit snippet files
- Insert Snippet** Command Palette: pick a snippet from a list instead of typing its prefix
- Language snippets** Files such as `javascript.json` : only offered in that language
- Global snippets (.code-snippets)** Offered in every language, or only those named in `scope`
- Project snippets** A `.code-snippets` file in the project's `.vscode` folder
- %APPDATA%\Code\User\snippets** Where your user snippet files live on Windows
- Typing the prefix** Type it, then accept the suggestion with Tab or Enter

SNIPPET JSON FIELDS

- "Snippet Name": { ... }** The name of the snippet
- prefix** What you type to trigger the snippet
- body** The text to insert; an array of strings
- description** Shown next to the snippet in the list
- scope** Language IDs in a global snippet
- isFileTemplate** `true` : offered as a file template
- include / exclude** Glob patterns offered in the list

TAB STOPS & PLACEHOLDERS

- \$1 \$2 \$3** Tab stops: Tab moves from one to the next
- \$0** The final cursor position
- \${1:default}** A placeholder with default text that you can type over
- \${1:outer \${2:inner}}** Placeholders can be nested
- \${1|one,two,three|}** A choice: pick a value from a list
- Same number twice** Linked tab stops: typing in one fills in all of them
- \\$ \\\ \}** Escape a literal dollar sign, backslash or closing brace

VARIABLES (A SELECTION)

- \$TM_FILENAME / \$TM_FILENAME_EXT** The filename of the current file
- \$TM_FILEPATH / \$TM_DIRECTORY** The full path of the current file
- \$RELATIVE_FILEPATH** Path relative to the workspace folder
- \$TM_SELECTED_TEXT** The text selected in the editor
- \$TM_CURRENT_LINE / \$TM_CURRENT_COLUMN** The current line and column
- \$CLIPBOARD** The contents of the clipboard
- \$WORKSPACE_NAME / \$WORKSPACE_FOLDER** The name and path of the workspace
- \$CURRENT_YEAR \$CURRENT_MONTH \$CURRENT_DATE** The current date and time
- \$UUID \$RANDOM \$RANDOM_HEX** A random UUID, number or hex string
- \$LINE_COMMENT** The comment character for the current language
`#`
- \$BLOCK_COMMENT_START / _END** The start and end of a block comment

VARIABLE TRANSFORMS

- \${TM_FILENAME/(.*)\..+\$/1/}** Regex transform: this one turns `app.js` into `app`
- /upcase /downcase** Change case: ALL CAPS / all lower
- /capitalize** Capitalise the first letter
- /camelcase /pascalcase** `myFileName` / `MyFileName`
- /snakecase /kebabcase** `my_file_name` / `my-file-name`

SNIPPET SETTINGS

- editor.snippetSuggestions** `on`
- editor.tabCompletion** `off` (prefix)
- editor.suggest.showSnippets** `on`
- editor.suggest.snippetsPreview** `on`
- editor.acceptSuggestionOnEnter** `on`

EMMET ABBREVIATIONS (HTML)

<code>div>p</code>	Child: <code><div><p></p></div></code>
<code>h1+p</code>	Sibling: a heading followed by a paragraph
<code>ul>li*3</code>	Multiply: a list with three items
<code>li.item\$*3</code>	<code>\$</code> numbers the copies: <code>item1</code> , <code>item2</code> , <code>item3</code>
<code>div#main.box</code>	An id and a class on one element
<code>a[href=#{Click}]</code>	An attribute in <code>[]</code> and text in <code>{ }</code>
<code>(h1+p)*2</code>	Group with parentheses to repeat several elements
<code>div>p^span</code>	<code>^</code> climbs up one level, so <code>span</code> is a sibling of <code>div</code>
<code>! or html:5</code>	A full HTML5 page skeleton
<code>lorem lorem10</code>	Placeholder text: default length / ten words

EMMET ABBREVIATIONS (CSS)

<code>m10 p10</code>	<code>margin: 10px; /</code>
<code>p10-20</code>	<code>padding: 10px 20px</code>
<code>w100p</code>	<code>width: 100%;</code>
<code>fz16</code>	<code>font-size: 16px;</code>
<code>df jcc aic</code>	<code>display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;</code>
<code>c#333 bgc#fff</code>	<code>color: #333; background-color: #fff;</code>
<code>posa posr</code>	<code>position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0;</code>

EMMET COMMANDS (COMMAND PALETTE)

Emmet: Wrap with Abbreviation	Wrap the selection in the elements you type
Emmet: Remove Tag / Update Tag	Delete a tag but keep its content / rename a tag
Emmet: Split/Join Tag	Turn <code>
</code> -style tags into open/close pairs and back
Emmet: Go to Matching Pair	Jump between a tag's opening and closing parts
Emmet: Balance (outward / inward)	Grow or shrink the selection by whole tags
Emmet: Go to Next / Previous Edit Point	Jump between empty spots such as empty attributes
Emmet: Select Next / Previous Item	Move through attributes and values
Emmet: Toggle Comment / Merge Lines	Comment a tag / merge selected lines into one
Emmet: Evaluate Math Expression	Replace <code>10*3</code> with <code>30</code>
Emmet: Increment / Decrement by 0.1, 1, 10	Change the number under the cursor
Emmet: Reflect CSS Value	Copy a value to its vendor-prefixed twins
Emmet: Update Image Size	Fill an <code>img</code> tag's width and height from the file
Show Emmet Commands	List every Emmet command

EMMET SETTINGS

<code>emmet.showExpandedAbbreviations</code>	Whether to show expanded abbreviations
<code>emmet.showAbbreviationSuggestions</code>	Whether to show abbreviation suggestions
<code>emmet.triggerExpansionOnTab</code>	Whether to trigger expansion on tab
<code>emmet.includeLanguages</code>	Use Emmet for the specified language (default: none)
<code>emmet.excludeLanguages</code>	Language names that Emmet should ignore (default: none)
<code>emmet.useInlineCompletions</code>	Whether to use inline completions
<code>emmet.showSuggestionsAsSnippets</code>	Whether to show suggestions as snippets
<code>emmet.variables</code>	Values for Emmet variables (default: none)
<code>emmet.preferences / emmet.triggerExpansionOnTab</code>	Whether to trigger expansion on tab
<code>emmet.extensionsPath</code>	Folder path for Emmet extensions (default: none)
<code>emmet.optimizeStylesheetParser</code>	Whether to optimize the stylesheet parser

SNIPPETS TO COPY (EXAMPLES)

<code>"Log": { "prefix": "clg", "body": ["console.log(\$1);"] }</code>	In <code>javascript.json</code> : type <code>clg</code> and accept
<code>"Main guard": { "prefix": "ifmain", "body": ["if __name__ == \"__main__\":", " \${1:main()}"] }</code>	In <code>python.json</code> : the usual Python entry-point block
<code>"Date": { "prefix": "today", "body": ["\$CURRENT_YEAR-\$CURRENT_MONTH-\$CURRENT_DATE"] }</code>	A global snippet that inserts today's date
<code>"editor.tabCompletion": "onlySnippets"</code>	Setting: Tab expands snippets only, nothing else
<code>"emmet.triggerExpansionOnTab": true</code>	Setting: Tab expands Emmet abbreviations

MY SNIPPET DOESN'T APPEAR

Check three things: the snippet's scope or file name matches the language of the file you are editing, `editor.snippetSuggestions` is not none, and you are accepting the suggestion (Tab or Enter) rather than pressing Space. *Insert Snippet* from the Command Palette lists every snippet that applies to the current file, which is a quick way to tell whether the snippet itself loaded.

EMMET DOESN'T WORK IN A JSX, PHP OR OTHER FILE

Emmet is on by default for HTML, CSS and similar files. For another language, map it to one Emmet understands with `emmet.includeLanguages`, for example {
"javascript": "javascriptreact" } (`.class` then becomes `className` in JSX). Emmet is off in Markdown by default; remove markdown from `emmet.excludeLanguages` if you want it there.