

Select text like a ninja

Six useful Mac moves for selecting and copying text.

01 Extend selection by words

[Shift+Option+Left](#) / [Shift+Option+Right](#) · [Shift-Option-Arrow](#)

Place the cursor in editable text. Hold Shift and Option, then press Left Arrow or Right Arrow to extend the selection word by word. App behavior can vary.

[macOS](#) | [Full lesson](#) | [Mac keyboard shortcuts](#)

02 Select to a line boundary

[Shift+Command+Left](#) / [Shift+Command+Right](#) · [Shift-Command-Arrow](#)

In supported macOS text editors, hold Shift and Command and press Left or Right Arrow to extend to the beginning or end of the current line.

[macOS](#) | [Full lesson](#) | [Mac keyboard shortcuts](#)

03 Extend a selection to a distant point

[Shift-click the endpoint](#)

In Pages text, establish the selection anchor, hold Shift and click the desired endpoint. This extends the range; it does not copy it. Other apps may differ.

[macOS](#) | [Full lesson](#) | [Apple - Extend a selection to a distant point](#)

04 Select a word or paragraph

[Double-click](#) / [triple-click](#)

Double-click a word to select it, or triple-click within a paragraph to select that paragraph. The text must be selectable in the app.

[macOS](#) | [Full lesson](#) | [Select a text range by clicking and dragging - Apple guide](#) | [Apple - Extend a selection to a distant point](#)

05 Copy selected text by dragging

[Option-drag](#)

In a supporting Mac app, select text. Hold Option while dragging the selection to a destination, drop it, then release Option. Confirm the copy indicator; app behavior can vary.

[macOS](#) | [Full lesson](#) | [Apple - Move selected text](#)

06 Copy

[Command+C](#)

Select text, then press Command-C. On iPad, use a connected physical keyboard.

Select the text you want to copy. To copy all text in an editable text field, press Command-A first.

Hold Command (Command+), press C, then release both keys to copy the selection.

To check the result, place the cursor in a destination text field and press Command-V to paste.

On iPad, connect a physical keyboard. The app must allow copying the selected text; app shortcuts and availability can vary.

[macOS](#) | [Full lesson](#) | [Mac keyboard shortcuts](#) | [Learn iPad keyboard shortcuts](#)