




# How to Type Symbols Using the ALT Key

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Six Methods: [Samples](#) [On a PC](#) [On a Mac](#) [Symbol Alt Codes](#) [Foreign Language Alt Codes](#)  
[Mathematical Equation Alt Codes](#)

The ALT key can help you access alt codes, or characters that aren't readily available on a normal keyboard. These codes can be used to write in foreign languages, mathematical equations, or to add fun symbols to your messages. Below  is how to do it on a PC or a Mac, then a list of symbols such as  $\pi$ , <sup>o</sup>,  and .

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### Samples

Alt Key Symbols for PC

Option Key Symbols for Mac

**Method 1 of 5: On a PC**

**1 Learn how to key in an Alt-code.** Hold down the Alt key and put in the numbers on the keypad to the right of the keyboard. When you finish entering the numbers and release the Alt key, the symbol will appear.

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**2 Learn how to key in Alt codes on a laptop.** Press the "Num Lock" key. (If it's blue or grey, hold down the Fn key before pressing it.) The Number Lock activated the gray or blue keys on your keyboard; they should be arranged in a square. Hold down the ALT key, hit the & then the # and then use these numbers.

**Method 2 of 5: On a Mac**

**1 Hold the Option key and press any other key to get custom characters**

**2 To get a second set of custom characters, hold down both the Option key and the Shift key**

**3 See this [wikiHow article](#) for more information.**

**Method 3 of 5: Symbol Alt Codes**

- Note: The following sections contain special characters. Without proper rendering support, you may see question marks, boxes, or other symbols that may not relate to the text beside it.

**Symbols With the ALT key plus numbers**

- © Copyrighted [0169]
- ♥ coeur [3]
- ® Reserved mark [0174]
- ™ Service mark [8480]

**Symbols With the ALT key plus numbers**

- ♉ Taurus [9801]
- ♊ Gemini [9802]
- ♋ Cancer [9803]
- ♌ Leo [9804]

- °C Celsius [8451]
- % Care of [8453]
- °F Fahrenheit [8457]
- № Number symbol [8470]
- © Sound recording copyright [8471]
- ℞ Prescription/pharmaceutical symbol [8478]
- Ω Ohm [8486]
- ∩ Inverted ohm [8487]
- ☀ Sunshine [9728]
- ☁ Cloud [9729]
- ☂ Umbrella [9730]
- ☃ Snowman [9731]
- ♄ Comet [9732]
- ★ Star (solid) [9733]
- ☆ Star (outline) [9734]
- ⚡ Lightning [9735]
- ⚡ Thunderstorm [9736]
- ☉ Sun [9737]
- ♁ Ascending node [9738]
- ♁ Descending node [9739]
- ♋ Conjunction [9740]
- ♌ Opposition [9741]
- ☎ Phone (solid) [9742]
- ☎ Phone (outline) [9743]
- ☐ Checkbox [9744]
- ☑ Ballot box [9745]
- ☒ Ballot box with X [9746]
- X Saltire (St. Andrew's Cross) [9747]
- ✎ Left-pointing index finger (solid) [9754]
- ✎ Right-pointing index finger (solid) [9755]
- ✎ Left-pointing index finger (outline) [9756]
- ✎ Upwards-pointing index finger (outline) [9757]
- ✎ Right-pointing index finger (outline) [9758]
- ✎ Downwards-pointing index finger (outline) [9759]
- ☠ Skull & crossbones [9760]
- Z Caution sign [9761]
- ☢ Radioactive sign [9762]
- ☣ Biohazard sign [9763]
- ⚔ Caduceus or "Kerykeion" [9764]
- ♍ Virgo [9805]
- ♎ Libra [9806]
- ♏ Scorpio [9807]
- ♐ Sagittarius [9808]
- ♑ Capricorn [9809]
- ♒ Aquarius [9810]
- ♓ Pisces [9811]
- ♔ White king [9812]
- ♚ White queen [9813]
- ♖ White rook [9814]
- ♗ White bishop [9815]
- ♘ White knight [9816]
- ♙ White pawn [9817]
- ♜ Black king [9818]
- ♛ Black queen [9819]
- ♝ Black rook [9820]
- ♞ Black bishop [9821]
- ♟ Black knight [9822]
- ♞ Black pawn [9823]
- ♠ Black spade suit [9824]
- ♥ Red heart suit [9825]
- ♦ Red diamond suit [9826]
- ♣ Black club suit (or shamrock) [9827]
- ♠ Red spade suit [9828]
- ♥ Black heart suit (or valentine) [9829]
- ♦ Black diamond suit [9830]
- ♣ Red club suit [9831]
- ♨ Hot springs [9832]
- ♩ Musical quarter note [9833]
- ♪ Musical eighth note [9834]
- ♫ Musical single bar note [9835]
- ♬ Musical double bar note [9836]
- ♭ Flat note [9837]
- ♮ Natural note [9838]
- ♯ Sharp note [9839]
- ✂ Cut above [9985]
- ✂ Cut here [9986]
- ✂ Cut below [9987]
- ✂ Scissors [9988]
- ☎ Public pay phone [9990]
- 🎞 Film reel (tape spool) [9991]
- ✈ Airport/airplane [9992]
- ✉ Envelope/mail/email [9993]
- ✌ Victory sign [9996]
- ✍ Signature/sign here [9997]

- ♀ Ankh [9765]
- † Eastern Christian cross [9766]
- Ɐ Chi Rho cross [9767]
- † Patriarchal cross [9768]
- ⳵ Greek cross [9769]
- ☾ Crescent moon & star [9770]
- ۞ Farsi symbol [9771]
- ॐ Adi Shakti [9772]
- ⚒ Hammer & sickle [9773]
- ☶ Peace sign [9774]
- ☯ Yin & yang [9775]
- ☰ Trigram Heaven [9776]
- ☱ Trigram Lake [9777]
- ☲ Trigram Fire [9778]
- ☳ Trigram Thunder [9779]
- ☴ Trigram Wind [9780]
- ☵ Trigram Water [9781]
- ☶ Trigram Mountain [9782]
- ☷ Trigram Earth [9783]
- ॐ Dharma wheel [9784]
- ☹ Frowning face [9785]
- ☺ Smiley face [9786]
- ☛ Black smiley face [9787]
- 🌒 Waxing crescent moon [9789]
- 🌘 Waning crescent moon [9790]
- ☿ Mercury [9791]
- ♀ Venus (female symbol) [9792]
- ♂ Earth symbol [9793]
- ♂ Mars (male symbol) [9794]
- ♃ Jupiter [9795]
- ♄ Saturn [9796]
- ♅ Uranus [9797]
- ♆ Neptune [9798]
- ♇ Pluto [9799]
- ♈ Aries [9800]
- ✎ Pencil diagonal down [9998]
- ✎ Pencil [9999]
- ✎ Pencil diagonal up [10000]
- ✓ Checkmark [10003]
- ✓ Heavy checkmark [10004]
- ✖ Multiplication sign/X [100005]
- ✖ Heavy multiplication sign/X [10006]
- ✕ Ballot X [10007]
- ✕ Heavy ballot X [10008]
- † Latin Roman cross [10013]
- † Latin cross 3D shadow [10014]
- † Latin cross outline [10015]
- ✠ Maltese Cross [10016]
- ☆ Star of David [10017]
- ‘ Quotation mark single turned comma [10075]
- ’ Quotation mark single comma [10076]
- “ Quotation mark double turned comma [10077]
- ” Quotation mark double comma [10078]
- ™ Trademark [0153]
- ◌= 777
- ∞ Infinity [236]
- ■ [479]
- ▬ Bar [478]
- ⏪ [457]
- ▶ Play Forward [16]
- ◀ Play Reverse [17]
- ▲ Scroll Up [30]
- ▼ Scroll Down [31]

#### Method 4 of 5: Foreign Language Alt Codes

##### Symbols With the ALT key plus numbers

- Ç [128]
- ü [129]
- é [130]
- â [131]

##### Symbols With the ALT key plus numbers

- ô [147]
- ö [148]
- ò [149]
- û [150]

- ä [132]
- à [133]
- å [134]
- ç [135]
- ê [136]
- ë [137]
- è [138]
- ï [139]
- î [140]
- ï [141]
- Ä [142]
- Å [143]
- É [144]
- æ [145]
- Æ [146]
- þ [0254]
- Þ [0222]
- ù [151]
- ÿ [152]
- Ö [153]
- Ü [154]
- ø [155]
- £ [156]
- á [160]
- í [161]
- ó [162]
- ú [163]
- ñ [164]
- Ñ [165]
- ª [166]
- ° [167]
- ¿ [168]

#### Method 5 of 5: Mathematical Equation Alt Codes

##### Symbols With the ALT key plus numbers

- + [43]
- - [45]
- × [0215]
- ÷ [0247]
- % [37]
- ‰ [0137]
- ± [241]
- ¼ [0188]
- ½ [0189]
- ¾ [0190]
- ≡ [240]
- = [61]
- ≈ [247]
- ≥ [242]

##### Symbols With the ALT key plus numbers

- ≤ [243]
- √ [251]
- <sup>n</sup> [252]
- <sup>1</sup> [0185]
- <sup>2</sup> [0178]
- <sup>3</sup> [0179]
- π [227]
- ° [248]
- ∞ [236]
- μ [230]
- Σ [228]
- ∩ [239]
- ∫ [244]
- ∫ [245]

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## Tips

- Take note of zeros - they must be entered on alt codes if listed.
- For laptops without number pads or number lock, go to Start > All Programs > Accessories > Ease of Access > On-Screen Keyboard, and use the virtual number pad to input Alt+Keystroke codes.
- To type pictures with keyboard symbols, such as a bunny, see [this article](#).
- Some characters will show an ALT+Keystroke combination. This will be displayed in the lower right corner of the character map utility. In order to use this shortcut, hold down the ALT key while you type in the entire code. When you *release* the ALT key the glyph will appear.
- To type with special symbols you may also use transliteration tools.
- The ALT key, along with characters not available on keyboards, can also type in standard characters.

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## Warnings

- This only works with programs which accept an ASCII input, such as email, Notepad, WordPad, etc. Try it for the program you are using.

## Sources and Citations

- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alt\\_key](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alt_key) Wikipedia entry on the Alt key
- Wikipedia entry list of special characters
  - Wikipedia entry on using alt keycodes
- Supplemental list of Alt codes for PC

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A project to bring Western Canadian oil to Eastern Canada.



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