

# Save time using keyboard shortcuts

## Keyboard Navigation Basics

Use the keyboard shortcuts below to navigate between elements from either the desktop app or Slack in a browser. You'll know an element is in focus when it's surrounded by a blue outline, or when a text cursor is blinking in a message field.

Action	Desktop app shortcut	Browser shortcut
Move focus to the next section		<b>Mac:</b> 
	or  (Mac only)	<b>Windows/Linux:</b> 
Move focus to the previous section		<b>Mac:</b> 
	or  (Mac only)	<b>Windows/Linux:</b> 
Move focus within the current section	or 	or 

Move focus between items in a list, ex. messages, channels, etc.	or  *	or  *
Move focus to first unread message	<b>Mac:</b> 	<b>Mac:</b> 
	<b>Windows/Linux:</b> 	<b>Windows/Linux:</b> 
Move to the oldest message		
Move to the most recent message		

\*If using a screen reader on Windows, you may need to toggle the virtual cursor off so shortcuts provided by your screen reader don't collide with Slack shortcuts.

**Note:** If you're not typing a message and there aren't any menus open, pressing will mark messages as read.

# Open a Conversation

Follow the steps below to open a channel or direct message (DM):

## Open a conversation


Follow the steps below to open a [channel](#) or [direct message \(DM\)](#):


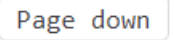















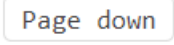



- 1 Press   (Mac) or   (Windows/Linux).
- 2 Type the name of a channel or person into the search field.
- 3 Press  to open the conversation.




**Tip:** To open a conversation in [a new window](#), focus on the name of a channel or DM in your sidebar, then press  +  (Mac) or  +  (Windows/Linux).

## Read Messages In a Conversation



Move focus to the empty message field and press  to start navigating between individual messages. Then, use any of these keys:

-  or  to jump up or down.
-  to go to the oldest message.
-  to go to the most recent message.
-   (Mac) or   (Windows/Linux) to move focus to the first unread message.
-    (Mac) or   (Windows/Linux) to scroll to the start of the previous day's messages.
-    (Mac) or   (Windows/Linux) to scroll to the start of the next day's messages.
-  to scroll through messages.
-  to enter the thread associated with a message. Within the thread, all of the above keys will function the same way. Press  from anywhere in the thread to navigate back to the main conversation.






**Tip:** Continuously pressing  will allow you to explore channels you don't have [permission to post in](#).


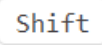

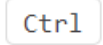


## Interact With Messages In a Conversation



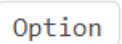
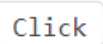

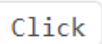



- 1 When focused on the empty message input field, press  to start navigating between individual messages.
- 2 When focused on a message, press  to scroll through links, attachments, etc. or use [contextual one-key shortcuts](#) to take actions (like editing, replying, or sharing) quickly.



**Tip:** To open the Message Actions menu, you can press   (on Mac, with full keyboard access enabled) or the  key (on Windows).

## Navigate Unread Messages

Press    (Mac) or    (Windows/Linux) to open the Unreads view, then use these keys to review your unread messages:

-  or  to move between individual messages.
-   (Mac) or   (Windows/Linux) to mark a single message as unread.
-  or  to expand or collapse a group of messages.
-  to mark a group of messages as unread.