

Creating and Editing Live Templates

IntelliJ IDEA comes with a set of the predefined [Live Templates](#). You can use them as is, or modify them to suit your needs. If you want to create a new live template, you can do it from scratch, on the base of the copy of an existing template, or from a fragment of source code.

If a template has been changed, it is always possible to restore its default settings.

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To modify an existing template

1. In the [IDE settings](#), open the [Live Templates](#) page.
2. Expand the desired template group, and select the template you want to change.
3. In the [Template Text](#) area, change the [template abbreviation](#) as required.
4. In the **Template Text** field, edit the template body which may contain plain text and variables in the format `<variable name>`.

When editing the live template variables, mind the following helpful hints:

- If you need a dollar sign (\$) in the template text, escape it by duplicating this character (\$\$).
- To [change variables](#) in a template, click the **Edit Variables** button.

The **Edit Variables** button is enabled only if the template body contains at least one user-defined variable, that is, a variable different from `END` or `$SELECTION$`.

IntelliJ IDEA supports two *predefined live template variables*: `END` and `$SELECTION$`.

You cannot edit the predefined live template variables `END` and `$SELECTION$`.

- `END` indicates the position of the cursor after the template is expanded. For example, the template `return END;` will be expanded into `return ;` with the cursor positioned *right before* the semicolon.
- `$SELECTION$` is used in *surround templates* and stands for the code fragment to be wrapped. After the template is expanded, the selected text is wrapped as specified in the template.

For example, if you select `EXAMPLE` in your code and invoke the `"$SELECTION$"` template via the assigned abbreviation or by pressing `Ctrl+Alt+T` and selecting the desired template from the list, IntelliJ IDEA will wrap the selection in double quotes as follows:

`"EXAMPLE"`.

5. In the **Options** section, specify how the template will be expanded and reformatted.
6. In the **Available in** section, specify the languages and places of code where the editor should be sensitive to the template abbreviation.
7. Click **OK** when ready.

To create a new template from scratch

1. In the [IDE settings](#), open the [Live Templates](#) page, and expand the template group where you want to create a new template.
2. Click the **Add** button **+**. A new template item is added to the group and the focus moves to the [Template Text](#) area.
3. Specify the new template abbreviation, type the template body, define the variables and the template group, configure the options, as described in the [template modification](#) procedure.
4. Click **OK** when ready.

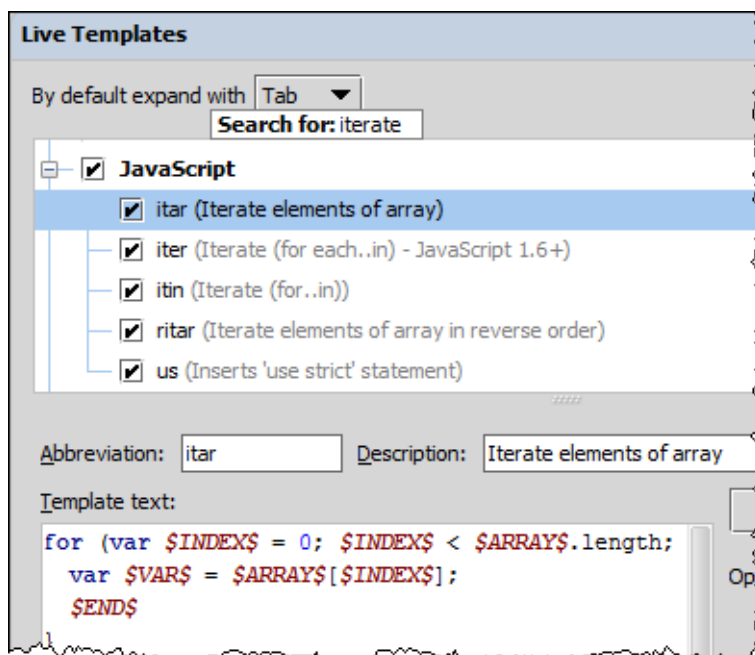
To create a live template from a text fragment

1. In the editor, select the text fragment to create a live template from.
2. On the main menu, choose **Tools | Save as Live Template**. The [Live Templates](#) page of the **Settings** dialog box opens, with the [Template Text](#) area in focus.
3. In the **Abbreviation** field, type abbreviation to identify your new live template.
4. Specify the new template abbreviation, type the template body, define the variables and the template group, configure the options, as described in the [template modification](#) procedure.
5. Click OK when ready.

To search through the list of live templates

- In the [Live Templates](#) page, start typing any string, which you expect to exist in the template abbreviation, body, or description.

IntelliJ IDEA shows all matching templates:



To restore default settings of a template

Note that a modified template is color-coded - it is shown blue.

1. In the [Live Templates](#) page, right-click a modified template to reveal its context menu.
2. Choose **Restore defaults** on the context menu of the modified template.

See Also

Concepts:

- [Live Templates](#)

Procedures:

- [Creating Code Constructs by Live Templates](#)
- [Expanding Zen Coding Templates with User Defined Templates](#)
- [Emmet \(Zen Coding\) Support](#)

Reference:

- [Live Templates](#)
- [Edit Template Variables Dialog](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 