

Live Templates

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Use this page to [create, manage, and edit live templates](#).

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List of available live templates

Item	Tooltip and shortcut	Description
By default expand with		Use this drop-down list to specify the default invocation key for all templates. Individual invocation keys for particular templates are defined in the editing area below .
Live Templates		<p>This list shows all currently available template abbreviations supplied with their descriptions. The abbreviations are grouped below nodes and sorted alphabetically within each group. To activate a template or an entire group, select the check box to its left.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Only active templates are displayed upon invoking live templates in the editor.■ If a template is active, the editor is sensitive to its abbreviation. Otherwise, the abbreviation is considered merely a set of characters.
	Add Alt+Insert	Click this button to have a new template item added to the current group of template. You can define the template abbreviation, description, text, variables, expansion key, and context in the editing area below .
	Remove Delete	Click this button to have the selected live template removed from the list.
	Copy	Click this button to create a new template based on the selected template. A new template item is added to the current node and the fields in the Template Text area show the definition of the selected template.

Context menu of a live template

Item	Description
Move	Choose a group to move the selected template to.

Item	Description
Change context	Choose this command to modify the set of contexts where the current template is enabled. Upon choosing this command, a list of supported language contexts is displayed. To make IntelliJ IDEA consider a context sensitive to the template, select a check box next to the context name. The available context types depend on the enabled plugins.
Restore defaults	This command only appears on the context menus of the modified templates, marked blue. Choose this command to restore the default template settings.

Template editing area

The focus is moved to this area in the following cases:

- When you click the **Add**  or **Copy**  button.
- When you select a live template in the list.
- When you select a fragment of code in the editor and choose **Tools | Save as Live Template**.

Use controls of this area to create new **live templates** and edit the settings for the existing ones.

You can navigate through the Template Text Area using the hot keys that are marked in the field labels.

Item	Description
Abbreviation	In this text box, specify the template abbreviation .
Description	In this text box, provide optional description of a template or an example of its usage.

Item	Description
Template Text	<p>In this text box, type the template body that may contain plain text and variables in the format <code><variable name>\$</code>.</p> <p>When editing the live template variables, mind the following helpful hints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>The Edit Variables button is enabled only if the template body contains at least one user-defined variable, that is, a variable different from <code>\$END\$</code> or <code>\$SELECTION\$</code>.</p> </div> <p>IntelliJ IDEA supports two <i>predefined live template variables</i>: <code>\$END\$</code> and <code>\$SELECTION\$</code>.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>You cannot edit the predefined live template variables <code>\$END\$</code> and <code>\$SELECTION\$</code>.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <code>\$END\$</code> indicates the position of the cursor after the template is expanded. For example, the template <code>return \$END\$;</code> will be expanded into <pre>return ;</pre> with the cursor positioned <i>right before</i> the semicolon. ■ <code>\$SELECTION\$</code> is used in <i>surround templates</i> 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 <code>EXAMPLE</code> in your code and invoke the "<code>\$SELECTION\$</code>" template via the assigned abbreviation or by pressing <code>Ctrl+Alt+T</code> and selecting the desired template from the list, IntelliJ IDEA will wrap the selection in double quotes as follows: <code>"EXAMPLE"</code>.
Applicable in:	<p>This read-only field shows the languages and/or pieces of code where the editor should be sensitive to the template. Upon pressing <code>Ctrl+J</code> in such context, IntelliJ IDEA displays a list of templates that are valid for this context.</p>
Change	<p>Click this link to modify the set of contexts where the current template is enabled. Upon clicking the link, a list of supported language contexts is displayed. To make IntelliJ IDEA consider a context sensitive to the template, select a check box next to the context name.</p> <p>The available context types depend on the enabled plugins.</p>

Item	Description
Edit Variables	<p>Click this button to open the Edit Template Variables dialog box, where you can define how IntelliJ IDEA should process template variables upon template expansion.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"><p>The Edit Variables button is enabled only if the template body contains at least one user-defined variable, that is, a variable different from <code>\$END\$</code> or <code>\$SELECTION\$</code>.</p></div>
Options	<p>In this area, define the behavior of the editor when a template is expanded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Expand with - from this drop-down list, choose the key to invoke the template.■ Reformat according to style - select this check box to have IntelliJ IDEA automatically reformat the expanded text according to the current style settings, defined on the Code Style page.■ Use static import if possible - select this check box to have IntelliJ IDEA add static import statements instead of inserting <code>Class.methodName()</code>.■ Shorten FQ names - select this check box to have IntelliJ IDEA truncate fully qualified names in the expanded template and add the corresponding import statements.

See Also

Concepts:

- [Live Templates](#)

Procedures:

- [Creating and Editing Live Templates](#)
- [Emmet \(Zen Coding\) Support](#)

Reference:

- [Edit Template Variables Dialog](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 