

Zoom Essentials Cheatsheet

Navigate Zoom meetings with ease using this handy cheat sheet covering core features, keyboard shortcuts, and useful tips for Windows and macOS.



Getting Started with Zoom

Joining a Meeting	Starting a Meeting (Hosting)
Join from Invitation Link: Click the meeting link provided (e.g., in email or calendar invite). Zoom client or web browser will open. Follow prompts to open Zoom client or join via browser.	Instant Meeting: Open Zoom client/app. Click 'New Meeting'. This starts a meeting instantly with your PMI (Personal Meeting ID) or a generated ID.
Open Zoom client/app. Click 'Join'. Enter the Meeting ID (usually 9-11 digits). Enter your name. Choose audio/video connection options. Click 'Join'.	Schedule Meeting: Open Zoom client/app. Click 'Schedule'. Fill in meeting details (Topic, Date, Time, Duration). Configure security (Passcode, Waiting Room). Configure meeting options (Host/Participant Video, Audio, Join Before Host,
Enter Passcode: If prompted, enter the meeting passcode provided by the host.	Click 'Save'. Copy invitation details to share.
Waiting Room: If enabled, wait for the host to admit you to the meeting.	Using PMI:
Test Audio/Video: Before joining, click 'Test Speaker & Microphone' and 'Test Video' options to ensure your hardware is working.	regular meetings with known contacts. Be mindful of security if using PMI frequently without a passcode/waiting room.
Name Display: You can change your displayed name when joining or within the participants list during the meeting.	Generate Meeting ID: For one-off meetings, it's recommended to use a generated Meeting ID for better security.
Remember Me: Check 'Remember my name for future meetings' for quicker joining next time.	Meeting Templates: Save recurring meeting settings as templates to quickly schedule similar meetings.
Join Before Host: If the host enables this option, you can join the meeting room before the	Cloud Recording Settings: Configure default recording settings (local or cloud) in the Zoom web portal.
host arrives.	Alternative Hosts: Assign other licensed users as alternative hosts to start the meeting if you are unable to.
	Host Controls: Once in the meeting, use the toolbar at the bottom to manage participants, sharing, recording, etc.

In-Meeting Controls

Audio and Video

Mute/Unmute	Click the microphone icon. Status indicates Muted (red with slash) or Unmuted (black/white).
Start/Stop Video	Click the camera icon. Status indicates Video Off (red with slash) or Video On (black/white).
Audio Settings	Click the arrow next to Mute/Unmute. Select Microphone, Speaker, Test Speaker & Microphone, or Audio Settings
Video Settings	Click the arrow next to Start/Stop Video. Select Camera, Video Settings, or Choose Virtual Background/Video Filter.
Switch Camera/Mic	Use the arrows next to icons to select different devices if multiple are connected.
Push-to-Talk	Hold down the Spacebar to temporarily unmute yourself. Enable this in Audio Settings.
Mute upon entry	Host can set this option in meeting settings to automatically mute participants when they join.
Ask to Unmute	If host mutes you, they must ask to unmute you. You accept or decline.

Participants and Chat

Manage Participants	Click 'Participants' button. Sidebar opens showing list of attendees. Host controls: Mute All, Unmute All, Lock Meeting, Put in Waiting Room, Rename, etc.
Rename Yourself	Hover over your name in the Participants list. Click 'More' -> 'Rename'.
Raise Hand	Click 'Participants' -> 'Raise Hand' button. An icon appears next to your name. Host can see raised hands and lower them.
Lower Hand	Click 'Participants' -> 'Lower Hand' button (replaces Raise Hand).
Open Chat	Click the 'Chat' button. Sidebar opens for messaging. Choose to send messages to 'Everyone' or a specific participant privately.
Save Chat	Click the 'More' options () in the Chat window. Click 'Save Chat'. Saves a text file of the conversation locally.
Reactions	Click 'Reactions' button. Select an emoji reaction (e.g., thumbs up, clapping). Appears on your video feed temporarily.
Nonverbal Feedback	Accessible via Participants panel (or Reactions, depending on version). Includes options like Yes, No, Go Faster, Go Slower.

Sharing & Recording

Screen Sharing	Recording Meetings	
Start Share:	Start Recording:	
Click the 'Share Screen' button.	Click the 'Record' button on the meeting toolbar.	
Choose what to share: your entire screen, a specific application window,	Choose to record to the 'Local Computer' or the 'Zoom Cloud' (if available	
whiteboard, or second camera.	with your plan).	
Share Computer Sound:	Recording Indicator:	
Check the 'Share computer sound' box in the bottom-left of the share	A red 'Recording' indicator appears in the top-left corner for all participants	
selection window if playing audio/video.	when recording is active.	
Optimize for Video Clip:	Pause/Stop Recording:	
Check the 'Optimize for video clip' box if sharing a video for smoother playback.	Click the 'Pause' or 'Stop' button next to the recording indicator/on the toolbar.	
Annotation Tools:	Recording Permissions:	
While sharing, a floating toolbar appears.	Hosts can grant specific participants permission to record locally.	
Click 'Annotate' to draw, type text, highlight on the shared screen.	Click 'Participants' -> Hover over participant's name -> 'More' -> 'Allow	
Click 'More' -> 'Disable Annotation for Others' to prevent participants from	Record'.	
Annotating.	Accessing Local Recordings:	
Remote Control:	After the meeting ends, Zoom converts the local recording files.	
While sharing, click 'Remote Control' on the toolbar.	A folder containing the video (MP4), audio (M4A), and chat (TXT) files will	
Grant control of your screen/application to another participant.	open automatically.	
Pause Share: Click 'Pause Share' on the floating toolbar to temporarily pause sharing without stopping it.	Accessing Cloud Recordings: Cloud recordings are processed online. You'll receive an email notification when the recording is ready. Access and manage cloud recordings via the Zoom web portal (zoom.us).	
Stop Share:	Recording Layout:	
Click the red 'Stop Share' button on the floating toolbar or at the top of your screen.	Configure default recording layouts (Speaker view, Gallery view, Shared screen) in the Zoom web portal recording settings.	
Advanced Sharing Options: Click the arrow next to 'Share Screen'. Options include: One participant can share at a time (default) or Multiple participants can share simultaneously. Also allows specifying who can start sharing when someone else is sharing (Host Only or All Participants).	Audio Transcript: Cloud recordings can automatically generate an audio transcript (enable in web settings).	

Windows Keyboard Shortcuts

General Shortcuts (Win)

`Alt + F1`	Switch to Active Speaker View in video meeting.
`Alt + F2`	Switch to Gallery View in video meeting.
`Alt + V`	Start/Stop Video.
`Alt + A`	Mute/Unmute Audio.
`Alt + M`	Mute/unmute audio for all participants (Host only).
`Alt + T`	Request remote control.
`Alt + R`	Start/Stop Local Recording.
`Alt + C`	Start/Stop Cloud Recording.
`Alt + P`	Pause/Resume Recording.

Meeting Controls (Win)

`Alt + S`	Start/Stop Screen Share.
`Alt + Shift + S`	Start New Screen Share (useful when already sharing).
`Alt + T`	Show/Hide Chat Panel.
`Alt + U`	Show/Hide Participants Panel.
`Alt + I`	Open Invite Window.
`Alt + L`	Lock/Unlock Meeting (Host only).
`Alt + B`	Initiate Breakout Rooms (Host only).
`Alt + Y`	Raise/Lower Hand.
`PageUp` / `PageDown`	View previous/next page of participants in Gallery View.

Chat & Window (Win)

`Alt + Shift + T`	Screenshot.
`Ctrl + Shift + A`	Mute/Unmute Audio (alternative).
`Ctrl + Shift + V`	Start/Stop Video (alternative).
`Ctrl + Shift + H`	Show/Hide in-meeting chat panel (alternative).
`Ctrl + W`	Close current chat session (when chat panel is open).
`Alt + Shift + M`	Pause/Resume screen share.
`Esc`	Exit Full Screen.
`Spacebar`	Push-to-talk (temporarily unmute).
`Ctrl + L`	Switch to Portrait/Landscape View.

macOS Keyboard Shortcuts

General Shortcuts (Mac)

`Cmd + Shift + A`	Mute/Unmute Audio.
`Cmd + Shift + V`	Start/Stop Video.
`Cmd + J`	Join Meeting.
`Cmd + Control + V`	Switch to Active Speaker View.
`Cmd + Control + G`	Switch to Gallery View.
`Cmd + R`	Start/Stop Local Recording.
`Cmd + E`	Show/Hide In-Meeting Chat.
`Cmd + U`	Show/Hide Participants Panel.
`Cmd + I`	Open Invite Window.

Meeting Controls (Mac)

`Cmd + Shift + E`	Show/Hide Chat (alternative).
`Cmd + W`	Close current chat session.
`Cmd + Shift + S`	Start/Stop Screen Share.
`Cmd + Control + S`	Start New Screen Share (when already sharing).
`Cmd + T`	Request remote control.
`Option + R`	Start/Stop Cloud Recording.
`Option + P`	Pause/Resume Recording.
`Option + Cmd + M`	Mute/Unmute all participants (Host only).
`Cmd + K`	Mute/Unmute all participants except host (Host only).

Window & Other (Mac)

`Spacebar`	Push-to-talk (temporarily unmute).
`Cmd + Y`	Raise/Lower Hand.
`Ctrl + W`	Close the active window.
`Ctrl + T`	Switch to Portrait/Landscape view.
`Cmd + Shift + R`	Start/Stop Remote Control.
`Cmd + L`	Lock/Unlock meeting (Host only).
`Shift + Cmd + H`	Show/Hide meeting controls.
`Cmd + N`	Switch Camera.
`Cmd + B`	Initiate Breakout Rooms (Host only).

Zoom Tips & Tricks

Enhancing Your Appearance

Touch Up My Appearance	In Video Settings, enable this option to smooth out skin tones and blemishes. Location: Settings > Video > My Video
Adjust for Low Light	In Video Settings, enable this to automatically adjust video brightness. Location: Settings > Video > My Video > Adjust for low light
Virtual Backgrounds	Replace your real background with an image or video. Requires a solid color background or a capable computer. Location: Settings > Background & Effects > Virtual Background
Video Filters	Apply color filters, frames, or foreground effects to your video feed. Location: Settings > Background & Effects > Video Filters
Studio Effects	Add virtual eyebrows, mustache/beard, or lip color. Location: Settings > Background & Effects > Studio Effects (Beta)
Webcam Placement	Position your webcam at eye level for a more direct connection with participants.

Managing Participants & Meetings

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Spotlight Video	Host can spotlight up to 9 participants' videos, making them the primary view for all attendees. Right-click video -> 'Spotlight for Everyone'.
Pin Video	Pin a participant's video to keep them in your main view, regardless of who is speaking. Right-click video -> 'Pin'.
Host Key	lf you join a meeting you scheduled but didn't start, you can claim host control using the Host Key. Find your Host Key in your Zoom web portal Profile.
Waiting Room Customization	Customize the waiting room title, text, and logo in the Zoom web portal. Location: Account Management > Account Settings > Meeting > Security > Waiting Room
Watermark	Add a watermark of participant's email address to shared screens and video feeds to discourage unauthorized sharing/recording. Location: Zoom web portal > Account Settings > Meeting > In Meeting (Advanced) > Add a watermark
Breakout Rooms	Divide participants into smaller sessions. Host can assign manually, automatically, or allow participants to choose. Host controls: Open/Close rooms, broadcast messages, join rooms. Enable in web portal: Account Settings > Meeting > In Meeting (Advanced) > Breakout Room
Polling	Create single or multiple choice questions for participants during a meeting. Create polls before the meeting in the web portal meeting settings. Launch and manage polls during the meeting via the 'Polling' button on the toolbar. Enable in web portal: Account Settings > Meeting > In Meeting (Basic) > Polling
Interpreter	Assign participants as language interpreters. Enable in web portal: Account Settings > Meeting > In Meeting (Advanced) > Language Interpretation
Closed Captioning	Provide real-time text transcription. Can be done manually by a participant, integrated with a 3rd party service, or automatically generated by Zoom (paid plans). Enable in web portal: (Account Settings > Meeting > In Meeting (Advanced) > Closed captioning)