Here are examples of some of the tasks often needed in critical editions. This was produced with LaTeX and the ednotes package.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Pellentesque et 1
lorem dolor, quis consequat mi. In tempor semper tempus. Pellentesque 2
molestie dictum quam non congue. Integer ut dolor vel mi vestibulum vel 3
et nulla. The end.* 4

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1 amet] A single word lemma. Notice how the lemma is keyed to the line number [item #2]. Also how the variants here in the footnotes run as a paragraph [item #3]. **1–2** Pellentesque...tempus] An example of a lemma abbreviation [item #4]. As you can see, it shortens the lemma, beginning with the first word (Pellentesque), and then placing an ellipsis until the last word (tempus) which comes in the next sentence in this example **2–3** Pellentesque molestie] A two-word lemma, in which the phrase cuts across two lines, and thus the lemma is keyed to both lines. **3** dolor vel mi vestibulum] This is the lemma in which the nested lemma is, well, nested [item #5]. **3** vestibulum] This is the nested lemma [item #5].

*Here you have second level of footnotes, with a distinct symbol; but this is already do-able in ConTeXt