Matching Longer Paths

2 min

Parameters are extremely helpful in making [server](#) routes dynamic and able to respond to different inputs. Route parameters will match anything in their specific part of the path, so a route matching `/monsters/:name` would match all the following request paths:

```
/monsters/hydra
/monsters/jörmungandr
/monsters/manticore
/monsters/123
```

In order for a request to match a route path, it must match the entire path, as shown in the diagram to the right. The request arrives for `/expressions/1`. It first tries to match the `/expressions` route, but because it has additional path segments after `/expressions`, it does not match this route and moves on to the next. It matches `/expressions/:id` because `:id` will match any value at that level of the path segment. The route matches, so the Express server calls the callback function, which in turn handles the request and sends a response.

Instructions

Move on to the next exercise when you're ready.