

Character	Function	Example
literal characters	Directly matches characters	<div>"cat"</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "cat"• "dog" (no match)
<div>"\d"</div>	Matches a digit from 0 to 9	<div>"\d"</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "1"• "A" (no match)• "_" (no match)• "!" (no match)• " " (no match)
<div>"\D"</div>	Matches a non-digit	<div>"\D"</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "1" (no match)• "A"• "_"• "!"• " "
<div>"\w"</div>	Matches a word character (letter, digit, or underscore)	<div>"\w"</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "1"• "A"• "_"• "!" (no match)• " " (no match)

\w

Matches any non-word character

\W

- “1” (no match)
- “A” (no match)
- “_” (no match)
- “!”
- “ ”

\s

Matches any whitespace character, such as spaces and tabs

\S

- “1” (no match)
- “A” (no match)
- “_” (no match)
- “!” (no match)
- “ ”

\S

Matches any non-whitespace character

\s

- “1”
- “A”
- “_”
- “!”
- “ ” (no match)

[...]

Character Set

Matches any characters inside the brackets. Can specify ranges of characters as well.

[A-C]

- “A”
- “B”
- “C”
- “D” (no match)

- “E” (no match)

"[^C-E]"

Negative Character Set

- “A”
- “B”
- “C” (no match)
- “D” (no match)
- “E” (no match)

[^ ...]

Matches
anything *not* inside the
brackets

". "

Wildcard

- “1”
- “A”
- “ ”
- “_”
- “!”
- “ ”

.

Matches any character
(except a newline)

"ca*t"

- “ct”
- “cat”
- “caat”
- “caaat”
- “caaaat”

*

Matches 0 or more times

"ca+t"

- “ct”
- “cat”

+

Matches 1 or more times

- "caat"
- "caaat"
- "caaaat"

"ca?t"

- "ct"
- "cat"
- "caat"
- "caaat"
- "caaaat"

?

Matches 0 or 1 time

"ca{2}t"

- "ct"
- "cat"
- "caat"
- "caaat"
- "caaaat"

{#}

Matches a specific number of times

"ca{2,}t"

- "ct"
- "cat"
- "caat"
- "caaat"
- "caaaat"

{#,}

Matches at least a specific number of times

"ca{2,3}t"

{#,#}

Matches within a specific

range of times

- "ct"
- "cat"
- "caat"
- "caaat"
- "caaaat"

Alternation

"cat|dog"

- "cat"
- "dog"
- "bird"

Matches either the expression before or the expression after

"^cat"

- "cat"
- "catsup"
- "concatenate" (no match)
- "kitty-cat" (no match)

Start of the string

"cat\$"

- "cat"
- "catsup" (no match)
- "concatenate" (no match)
- "kitty-cat"

End of the string

Escape Character

"\\\$"

Escapes the next character to be treated as a literal character

- “\$”

Capture Group

"c(at)"

Identifies matches that should be extracted

- “cat” (“at” is captured)
- “bat” (no match)

Non-Capturing Group

"c(?:at)"

Identifies matches that should not be extracted

- “cat” (“c” is captured)
- “bat” (no match)

Negative Lookahead Group

"cat(?! burglar)"

Identifies expressions that negate earlier matches

- “cat”
- “cats”
- “cat burglar” (no match)