Reading: The eBook [Handling and Processing Strings in R (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.](http://gastonsanchez.com/Handling_and_Processing_Strings_in_R.pdf%7D) by Gaston Sanchez.  
Cosma Shalizi's[Handout: Regular Expressions](http://www.stat.cmu.edu/~cshalizi/statcomp/14/lectures/05/regexp-handout.pdf)