

REGEX QUICK GUIDE – CLEAR & SIMPLE

1. Literal Parentheses vs Grouping Parentheses

- `(` and `)` → match actual characters '(' and ')' in your text.
- `(...)` → create a capturing group in regex (does NOT match literal parentheses).

Example:

Text: (24 eps)

Regex: `\\((.*?))`

Meaning:

`(` = match literal "("

(.*?) = capture everything inside

)` = match literal ")"

2. Non-Greedy vs Greedy Quantifiers

.*? → non-greedy match (match as little as possible)

.* → greedy match (match as much as possible)

Example:

Regex: `<.*?>`

Matches the shortest possible text between < and >.

3. Character Classes

[A-Z] → match uppercase letters

[a-z] → match lowercase letters

[A-Za-z] → match any letter

`\d` → digit 0–9

`\w` → word character (letters, digits, underscore)

`\s` → whitespace (space, tab, newline)

4. Quantifiers

x* → 0 or more times

x+ → 1 or more times

x? → 0 or 1 time

x{3} → exactly 3 times

x{2,4} → between 2 and 4 times

5. Useful Examples

Extract text in parentheses:

`\\((.*?))`

Extract month + year:

([A-Za-z]{3} \d{4})

Extract date range:

([A-Za-z]{3} \d{4} - [A-Za-z]{3} \d{4})

Extract digits:

(\d+)

Extract words:

(\w+)