

- Tutorial (/lesson/introduction\_abcs)
- References (/problem/matching\_decimal\_numbers)

## Lesson 9: All this whitespace

When dealing with real-world input, such as log files and even user input, it's difficult not to encounter whitespace. We use it to format pieces of information to make it easier to read and scan visually, and a single space can put a wrench into the simplest regular expression.

The most common forms of whitespace you will use with regular expressions are the **space** ( $_{\square}$ ), the **tab** ( $^{\text{lt}}$ ), the **new line** ( $^{\text{ln}}$ ) and the carriage return ( $^{\text{lr}}$ ) (useful in Windows environments), and these special characters match each of their respective whitespaces. In addition, a **whitespace** special character  $^{\text{ls}}$  will match **any** of the specific whitespaces above and is extremely useful when dealing with raw input text.

In the strings below, you'll find that the content of each line is indented by some whitespace from the index of the line (the number is a part of the text to match). Try writing a pattern that can match each line containing whitespace characters between the number and the content. Notice that the whitespace characters are just like any other character and the special metacharacters like the star and the plus can be used as well.

## Exercise 9: Matching Whitespaces

Task	Text	
Match	1. abc	<b>②</b>
Match	2. abc	<b>⊘</b>
Match	3. abc	<b>⊘</b>
Skip	4.abc	
\s		
	Continue >	

Solve the above task to continue on to the next problem, or read the Solution.

Next – Lesson 10: Starting and ending (/lesson/line\_beginning\_end)
Previous – Lesson 8: Characters optional (/lesson/optional characters)

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