


RegexOne
(/) Tutorial (/lesson/introduction_abcs) References (/problem/matching_decimal_numbers)



Lesson 3: Matching specific characters

The dot metacharacter from the last lesson is pretty powerful, but sometimes **too** powerful. If we are matching phone numbers for example, we don't want to validate the letters "(abc) def-ghij" as being a valid number!

There is a method for **matching specific characters** using regular expressions, by defining them inside **square brackets**. For example, the pattern **[abc]** will only match a **single** a, b, or c letter and nothing else.

Below are a couple lines, where we only want to match the first three strings, but not the last three strings. Notice how we can't avoid matching the last three strings if we use the dot, but have to specifically define what letters to match using the notation above.

Exercise 3: Matching Characters

Task	Text	
Match	can	
Match	man	
Match	fan	
Skip	dan	
Skip	ran	
Skip	pan	

`[cmf]`

Continue >

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

Next – Lesson 4: Excluding specific characters (/lesson/excluding_characters)

Previous – Lesson 2: The Dot (/lesson/wildcards_dot)

Find RegexOne useful? Please consider
Donating (\$4) via Paypal to support our site.

Tweet

2019 © RegexOne

Email (<mailto:regexone@gmail.com>) | Twitter (<http://twitter.com/regexone>)

Additional Courses

Interactive SQL Lessons (<https://sqlbolt.com>)