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(/)

🎓 Tutorial (/lesson/introduction_abcs)

🔖 References (/problem/matching_decimal_numbers)

Lesson 12: Nested groups

When you are working with complex data, you can easily find yourself having to extract multiple layers of information, which can result in nested groups. Generally, the results of the captured groups are in the order in which they are defined (in order by open parenthesis).

Take the example from the previous lesson, of capturing the filenames of all the image files you have in a list. If each of these image files had a sequential picture number in the filename, you could extract both the filename and the picture number using the same pattern by writing an expression like **^(IMG(\d+))\.png$** (using a nested parenthesis to capture the digits).

The nested groups are read from left to right in the pattern, with the first capture group being the contents of the first parentheses group, etc.

For the following strings, write an expression that matches **and captures** both the full date, as well as the year of the date.

Exercise 12: Matching Nested Groups

Task	Text	Capture Groups		
Capture	Jan 1987	Jan 1987	1987	✅
Capture	May 1969	May 1969	1969	✅
Capture	Aug 2011	Aug 2011	2011	✅

```
^(\w+(\s+(\d+)))
```

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

Next – Lesson 13: More group work (/lesson/more_groups)
Previous – Lesson 11: Match groups (/lesson/capturing_groups)

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