

Meta character

Link - <https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/rational-clearquest/9.0.1?topic=tags-meta-characters-in-regular-expressions>

Description

**** Marks the next character as either a special character or a literal. For example, `n` matches the character `n`, whereas `\n` matches a newline character. The sequence `\\` matches `\` and `\(` matches `(`.

^ Matches the beginning of input.

\$ Matches the end of input.

***** Matches the preceding character zero or more times. For example, `zo*` matches either `z` or `zoo`.

+ Matches the preceding character one or more times. For example, `zo+` matches `zoo` but not `z`.

? Matches the preceding character zero or one time. For example, `a?ve?` matches the `ve` in `never`.

. Matches any single character except a newline character.

(pattern) Matches a pattern and remembers the match. The matched substring can be retrieved from the resulting matches collection by using this code: `Item [0]...[n]`. To match parentheses characters `()`, use `\(` or `\)`.

x|y Matches either `x` or `y`. For example, `z|wood` matches `z` or `wood`. `(z|w)oo` matches `zoo` or `wood`.

{n} `n` is a non-negative integer. Matches exactly `n` times. For example, `o{2}` does not match the `o` in `Bob`, but matches the first two `os` in `fooooood`.

{n,} In this expression, `n` is a non-negative integer. Matches the preceding character at least `n` times. For example, `o{2,}` does not match the `o` in `Bob` and matches all the `os` in `fooooood`. The `o{1,}` expression is equivalent to `o+` and `o{0,}` is equivalent to `o*`.

{n,m} The `m` and `n` variables are non-negative integers. Matches the preceding character at least `n` and at most `m` times. For example, `o{1,3}` matches the first three `os` in `fooooood`. The `o{0,1}` expression is equivalent to `o?`.

[xyz] A character set. Matches any one of the enclosed characters. For example, `[abc]` matches the `a` in `plain`.

[^xyz] A negative character set. Matches any character that is not enclosed. For example, `[^abc]` matches the `p` in `plain`.

[a-z] A range of characters. Matches any character in the specified range. For example, [a-z] matches any lowercase alphabetic character in the English alphabet.

[^m-z] A negative range of characters. Matches any character that is not in the specified range. For example, [m-z] matches any character that is not in the range m through z.

\A Matches only at beginning of a string.

\b Matches a word boundary, that is, the position between a word and a space. For example, er\b matches the er in never but not the er in verb.

\B Matches a nonword boundary. The ea*r\b expression matches the ear in never early.

\d Matches a digit character.

\D Matches a non-digit character.

\f Matches a form-feed character.

\n Matches a newline character.

\r Matches a carriage return character.

\s Matches any white space including spaces, tabs, form-feed characters, and so on.

\S Matches any non-white space character.

\t Matches a tab character.

\v Matches a vertical tab character.

\w Matches any word character including underscore. This expression is equivalent to [A-Za-z0-9_].

\W Matches any non-word character. This expression is equivalent to [^A-Za-z0-9_].

\z Matches only the end of a string.

\Z Matches only the end of a string, or before a newline character at the end.