

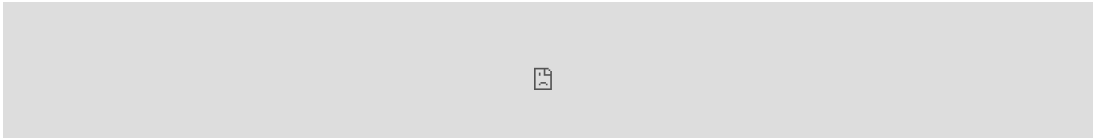


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[Home](#) >> [Tutorials](#) >> [Regular expression](#) >> [Common Metacharacters](#) >> [Metacharacters of Regular Expression](#)



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Metacharacters of Regular Expression

What are the metacharacters used in a Regular Expression?

Explanation

The following is the list of metacharacters used in regular expressions across different platforms.

Metacharacter	Description
\	Specifies the next character as either a special character, a literal, a back reference, or an octal escape.
^	Matches the position at the beginning of the input string.
\$	Matches the position at the end of the input string.
*	Matches the preceding subexpression zero or more times.
+	Matches the preceding subexpression one or more times.
?	Matches the preceding subexpression zero or one time.
{n}	Matches exactly n times, where n is a non-negative integer.
{n,}	Matches at least n times, n is a non-negative integer.
{n,m}	Matches between m and n times, where m and n are non-negative integers. If m is omitted, it defaults to 1. If m is equal to n, it is equivalent to {n}.
[n]	Matches any character enclosed in brackets except "n".
[x y]	Matches either x or y.
[^xyz]	A negative character set. Matches any character not enclosed.
[a-z]	A range of characters. Matches any character in the specified range.
[^a-z]	A negative range characters. Matches any character not in the specified range.
b	Matches a word boundary, that is, the position between a word and a space.
B	Matches a nonword boundary. 'erB' matches the 'er' in "verb" but not the 'er' in "never".
d	Matches a digit character.
D	Matches a non-digit character.
f	Matches a form-feed character.
n	Matches a newline character.

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- > [Common Metacharacters](#)
 - ▀ [Metacharacter List](#)
- > [Metacharacters](#)
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- > [Word Boundry](#)
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r	Matches a carriage return character.
s	Matches any whitespace character including space, tab, form-feed, etc.
S	Matches any non-whitespace character.
t	Matches a tab character.
v	Matches a vertical tab character.
w	Matches any word character including underscore.
W	Matches any non-word character.
un	Matches n, where n is a Unicode character expressed as four hexadecimal digits. For example, u00A9 matches the copyright symbol

The above metacharacter can be used with various commands to match the string like preg_match, preg_match_all in PHP or used with a "~=" to compare in Perl.

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