

Python Regex match()

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Summary: in this tutorial, you'll learn how to use the Python regex `match()` function to find a match with a pattern at the beginning of a string.

Introduction to the Python regex match function

The `re` module has the `match()` function that allows you to search for a `pattern` at the beginning of the `string` :

```
re.match(pattern, string, flags=0)
```

In this syntax:

- `pattern` is a regular expression that you want to match. Besides a regular expression, the `pattern` can be `Pattern` object.
- `string` is the input string
- `flags` is one or more [regex flags](https://www.pythontutorial.net/python-regex/python-regex-flags/) that modify the standard behavior of the pattern.

If the search is successful, the `match()` function returns the corresponding `Match` object. Otherwise, it returns `None`.

Note that the `match()` function only matches at the beginning of the string. If you want to find a match anywhere in the string, use the `search()` (<https://www.pythontutorial.net/python-regex/python-regex-search/>) function instead.

Python regex match() function example

The following example uses the `match()` function to check if a string starts with a digit:

```
import re

s = '3 pieces cost 5 USD'
pattern = r'\d{1}'
match = re.match(pattern, s)

if match is not None:
    print(f'The string starts with a digit {match.group()}')
```

Output:

```
The string starts with a digit 3
```

Summary

- Use the `search()` function to find zero or more characters at the beginning of a string that matches a pattern.