. - Single Wildcard. Can represent any one character in a single position

foo a bar

foo x bar foo.bar

foo c bar

\* - Zero or more occurrences of wildcard, which means zero or more occurrences of any character.

foo bar

foo abc bar

foo bxc bar foo.\*bar

foo z bar

\s represents whitespace. \s\* represents zero or more occurrences of white spaces

foo <3 spaces> bar

foo <1 space> bar

foo <6 spaces> bar foo\s\*bar

foo <0 Spaces> bar

[abc] - Character class. One of the characters inside the square brackets - a, b or c

f oo  
c oo

d oo [fcdplb]oo

p oo

l oo

b oo

[^abc] - Any character EXCEPT any of the ones inside the square brackets, in a single position.

m oo

h oo [^mh]oo

[a-c] - One of the characters falling in the range given in square brackets - a, b, c

j oo

k oo

l oo [j-m]oo

m oo

[a-cx] - one of the character falling in the range OR any of the other choices given in square brackets - a, b,c,x

j oo

k oo

l oo [j-mz]oo

m oo

z oo

[a-cA-Cx] - One of the characters falling in one of the ranges OR any of the other choices given in square brackets - a,b,c,A,B,C,x

j oo

K oo

L oo [j-mJ-Mz]oo

m oo

z oo

Following characters should be escaped with a backlash as these characters have special meaning otherwise : ^$\*.[()\

xxx . yy

xx . yyyy x\* \. y\*

x . yy

x # y

x : y x [#:.]y

x . y

If any of the characters ^, - appear inside square brackets, it needs to be escaped with a backslash as these two characters have special meaning