

## **EXPRESSIONS**

Sequence of characters that helps you find if a pattern exists (or not) using a specialized syntax. Used for searching or checking the validity (aka sanitizing) of a field like an email address or phone number. Example: The wildcard \* is like an expression which means return all of a search set.

The following are basic patterns that match single character.

\n new line (windows \r\n in Java)

\t tab

\s space

^ start of a string

. period means match any character except \n

^ Caret means match a pattern at start of string

\$ Dollar sign means match a pattern at end of string

You can find more here: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/re.html>

## SEARCH FUNCTION

First argument is sting pattern and second argument is string to be searched.

```
import re
```

Using \s

```
re.search(r'Eat\sake', 'Eat cake').group()
```

Using ^ Carat

```
re.search(r'^Eat', 'Eat cake').group()
```

```
print(re.search(r'Co.k.e', 'Cookie').group())
```

We use group(num) or groups() of match to get the expression from match function. Group will get 1 out of the result whereas groups gets everything.

## MATCH FUNCTION

```
re.match(pattern, string to be searched, compilation flag)
```

```
import re
```

```
pattern = r"Cookies"
```

```
sequence = "Cookie"
```

```
if re.match(pattern, sequence):
```

```
    print("Match!")
```

```
else: print("Not a match!")
```

The r in the pattern means raw to prevent python from confusing special characters such as \\. This example r was not necessary.

There is a difference between match versus search function. Match checks for a match at beginning of a string (by default) whereas search checks for a match anywhere in the string.