Sift through Text with Regular Expressions

Regular expressions are used to find certain words or patterns inside of strings.

For example, if we wanted to find the word the in the string The dog chased the cat, we could use the following regular expression: /the/gi

Let's break this down a bit:

/ is the start of the regular expression.

the is the pattern we want to match.

/ is the end of the regular expression.

g means global, which causes the pattern to return all matches in the string, not just the first one.

i means that we want to ignore the case (uppercase or lowercase) when searching for the pattern.

Instructions

Select all the occurrences of the word and in testString.

You can do this by replacing the . part of the regular expression with the word and.

Find Whitespace with Regular Expressions

We can also use regular expression selectors like \sto find whitespace in a string.

The whitespace characters are " " (space), \r (the carriage return), \n (newline), \t (tab), and \f (the form feed).

The whitespace regular expression looks like this:

/\s+/g

Instructions

Use \s to select all the whitespace characters in the sentence string.

Invert Regular Expression Matches with JavaScript

You can invert any match by using the uppercase version of the regular expression selector.

For example, \s will match any whitespace, and \Swill match anything that isn't whitespace.

Instructions

Use /\S/g to count the number of non-whitespace characters in testString.

Find Numbers with Regular Expressions

We can use special selectors in *Regular Expressions* to select a particular type of value.

One such selector is the digit selector \d which is used to retrieve one digit (e.g. numbers 0 to 9) in a string.

In JavaScript, it is used like this: /\d/g.

Appending a plus sign (+) after the selector, e.g. /\d+/g, allows this regular expression to match one or more digits.

The trailing g is short for 'global', which allows this regular expression to find all matches rather than stop at the first match.

Instructions

Use the \d selector to select the number of numbers in the string, allowing for the possibility of one or more digit.