use backslash for meta characters specifically (if they need to be searched)

.[{()\^$|?\*+

|  |
| --- |
| . – AnyCharacterExceptNewLine |
|  | \d - Digit (0-9) |
|  | \D - Not a Digit (0-9) |
|  | \w - Word Character (a-z, A-Z, 0-9, \_) |
|  | \W - Not a Word Character |
|  | \s - Whitespace (space, tab, newline) |
|  | \S - Not Whitespace (space, tab, newline) |
|  |  |
|  | \b - Word Boundary |
|  | \B - Not a Word Boundary |
|  | ^ - Beginning of a String |
|  | $ - End of a String |
|  |  |
|  | [] - Matches Characters in brackets |
|  | [^ ] - Matches Characters NOT in brackets |
|  | | - Either Or |
|  | ( ) - Group |
|  |  |
|  | Quantifiers: |
|  | \* - 0 or More |
|  | + - 1 or More |
|  | ? - 0 or One |
|  | {3} - Exact Number |
|  | {3,4} - Range of Numbers (Minimum, Maximum) |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | #### Sample Regexs #### |
|  |  |
|  | [a-zA-Z0-9\_.+-]+@[a-zA-Z0-9-]+\.[a-zA-Z0-9-.]+ |

<https://regexone.com/references/php>