Regular expressions specify complex patterns concisely and precisely.

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| **Name** | **Regex** | **Example** |
| Default | **a** | Character matching itself. No special meaning. a = a. |
| Repetition | **p\*** | Denotes 0 or more repetitions of p |
| Alternation | **pattern1 | pattern2** | “perl | python” matches any string with perl or python |
| Parenthesis | **a(,a)\*** | Denotes a comma separated list of a’s. |
| Char escape | **\** | “ \\* “ matches the “ \* “ character anywhere in the input |
| Special pattern | **. (dot)** | Matches any single character |
| Square brackets match (Default) | **[*Listofcharacters*]** | Matches any single char from the list of chars. [aeiou] matches any vowel |
| Square brackets match  (Range) | **[*First – Last*]** | [a-e] [a-z] [0-9] [a-zA-Z] [a-zA-Z0-9] |
| Inverted matching | **[^listofcharacters]** | [^a-e] matches any char that is NOT chars a to e |

Examples

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| --- | --- |
| **Regex** | **Matching patterns** |
| egrep ‘\[[1-9][0-9]\*(, [1-9][0-9]\*)\*\]’ | [100] | [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] |
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