# Lab: Regular Expressions C#

Problems for in-class lab for the ["C# Fundamentals" course @ SoftUni](https://softuni.bg/trainings/3447/programming-fundamentals-with-csharp-september-2021)  
You can check your solutions in [Judge](https://judge.softuni.org/Contests/1667/Regular-Expressions-Lab)

## Match Full Name

Write a C# Program to **match full names** from a list of names and **print** them on the console.

### Writing the Regular Expression

First, create a regular expression to match a valid full name, according to these conditions:

* A valid full name has the following characteristics:
  + It consists of **two words**.
  + Each word **starts** with a **capital letter**.
  + After the first letter, it **only contains lowercase letters afterwards**.
  + **Each** of the **two words** should be **at least two letters long**.
  + The **two words** are **separated** by a **single space**.

To help you out, we've outlined several steps:

1. Use an online regex tester like <https://regex101.com/>
2. Check out how to use **character sets** (denoted with square brackets - "[]")
3. Specify that you want **two words** with a space between them (the **space character '** **'**, and **not** any whitespace symbol)
4. For each word, specify that it should begin with an uppercase letter using a **character set**. The desired characters are in a range – **from** '**A**' **to** '**Z**'.
5. For each word, specify that what follows the first letter are only **lowercase letters**, one or more – use another character set and the correct **quantifier**.
6. To prevent capturing of letters across new lines, put "\b" at the beginning and at the end of your regex. This will ensure that what precedes and what follows the match is a word boundary (like a new line).

In order to check your RegEx, use these values for reference (paste all of them in the **Test String** field):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Match ALL of these** | **Match NONE of these** |
| Bethany Taylor John Smith | Bethany Taylor, Oliver miller, sophia Johnson, SARah Wilson, John Smith, Sam Smith |

By the end, the matches should look something like this:



After you’ve constructed your regular expression, it’s time to write the solution in C#.

### Implementing the Solution in C#

Create a new C# project and copy your **regular expression** into a string variable:



Note: It's usually a good idea to use a **verbatim string** (@in front of the string literal) to store **regular expressions**, since characters like the backslash "\" can clash with **string escaping**.

Now, it's time to **read the input** and **extract all the matches** from it. For this, we can use the MatchCollectionclass:



After we extract all the matches, we need to **iterate** over the MatchCollection and **print** every match that we found:



### Examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Input** | **Output** |
| Bethany Taylor, Oliver miller, sophia Johnson, SARah Wilson, John Smith, Sam Smith | Bethany Taylor John Smith |
| Elvis Presley a a C C-Muhammad Ali EE PeterpeterJR-a a xi ban D D bb b b-B B-c c EE-Michael Jackson DD peter smith B B PETER BROWN IVAN DAVIES- | Elvis Presley Muhammad Ali Michael Jackson |

## Match Phone Number

Create a regular expression to match a **valid phone number** from **Sofia**. After you find all **valid phones**, **print** them on the console, separated by a **comma and a space** ", ".

### Compose the Regular Expression

A valid number has the following characteristics:

* It starts with "**+359**"
* Then, it is followed by the area code (always **2**)
* After that, it’s followed by the **number** itself:
  + The number consists of **7 digits** (separated in **two** **groups** of **3** and **4** **digits** respectively).
* The different **parts** are **separated** by **either a space or a hyphen** ('**-**').

You can use the following RegEx properties to **help** with the matching:

* Use **quantifiers** to match a **specific number** of **digits**
* Use a **capturing group** to make sure the delimiter is **only one of the allowed characters** **(space or hyphen)** and **not** a **combination** of both (e.g. +359 2-111 111 has **mixed delimiters**, it is **invalid**). Use a **group backreference** to achieve this.
* Add a **word boundary** at the **end** of the match to avoid **partial matches** (the last example on the right-hand side).
* Ensure that before the **'+'** sign there is either a **space** or the **beginning of the string**.

You can use the following table of values to test your RegEx against:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Match ALL of these** | **Match NONE of these** |
| +359 2 222 2222  +359-2-222-2222 | 359-2-222-2222, +359/2/222/2222, +359-2 222 2222  +359 2-222-2222, +359-2-222-222, +359-2-222-22222 |

### Implement the Solution in C#

Now it's time to write the solution, so let's start writing!

First, just like in the previous problem, put your RegEx in a variable:



After that, let's make a MatchCollection for our matches:



Let's try to print **all the matches**, using only a **single line** **of code**. Since MatchCollection is, as its name suggests, a **collection**, we can use LINQ methods on it.

In order to get all of the matches and put them into a string array, we need to perform several manipulations on the MatchCollection:

1. Cast every single element of the MatchCollection to the Match type using Cast<Match>().
2. Since every element is a Match now, we can extract just the Valueproperty of the match itself, which holds the **match value** as a **string**, using Select(). We can also Trim() **the value**, to get rid of any **leading** or **trailing spaces**.
3. After getting the match value, we can use ToArray() to **convert** the collection to an **array**.

Here’s what that looks like as a LINQ query:



After that, just print the valid phone number array, using string.Join():



### Examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Input** | **Output** |
| +359 2 222 2222,359-2-222-2222, +359/2/222/2222, +359-2 222 2222 +359 2-222-2222, +359-2-222-222, +359-2-222-22222 +359-2-222-2222 | +359 2 222 2222, +359-2-222-2222 |
| +359 2 234 2324, 359-2-111-9876, +359/8/655/5432, +359-2 222 2222, +359 2-222-2222, +359-2-234-345, +359-2-123-45678, +359-2-222-2222, +359 2 654 1234 | +359 2 234 2324, +359-2-222-2222, +359 2 654 1234 |

## Match Dates

Write a program, which matches a date in the format "dd{separator}MMM{separator}yyyy". Use **named** **capturing groups** in your regular expression.

### Compose the Regular Expression

Every valid date has the following characteristics:

* Always starts with **two digits**, followed by a **separator**
* After that, it has **one uppercase** and **two lowercase** letters (e.g. Jan, Mar).
* After that, it has a **separator** and **exactly 4 digits** (for the year).
* The separator could be either of three things: a period ("."), a hyphen ("-") or a forward slash ("/")
* The separator needs to be **the same** for the whole date (e.g. 13.03.2016 is valid, 13.03/2016 is **NOT**). Use a **group backreference** to check for this.

You can follow the table below to help with composing your RegEx:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Match ALL of these** | **Match NONE of these** |
| 13/Jul/1928, 10-Nov-1934, 25.Dec.1937 | 01/Jan-1951, 23/sept/1973, 1/Feb/2016 |

Use **named capturing groups** for the **day**, **month** and **year**.

Since this problem requires more complex RegEx, which includes **named capturing groups**, we'll take a look at how to construct it:

* First off, we don't want anything at the **start** of our date, so we’re going to use a **word boundary** "\b":  
  
* Next, we're going to match the **day**, by telling our RegEx to match **exactly two digits**,and since we want to **extract** the day from the match later, we're going to put it in a **capturing group**:  
    
  We're also going to give our group a **name**, since it's easier to navigate by **group name** than by **group index**:  
  
* Next comes the separator – either a **hyphen**, **period** or **forward slash**. We can use a **character class** for this:  
    
  Since we want to use the separator we matched here to match the **same separator** further into the date, we’re going to put it in a **capturing group**:  
  
* Next comes the **month**, which consists of a **capital Latin letter** and **exactly two lowercase Latin letters**:
* Next, we're going to match the **same separator** **we matched earlier**. We can use a **backreference** for that:  
  
* Next up, we're going to match the year, which consists of **exactly 4 digits**:  
  
* Finally, since we don't want to match the date if there's anything else **glued to it**, we're going to use another **word boundary** for the end:  
  

Now it's time to find all the **valid dates** in the input and **print each date** in the following format: "Day: {day}, Month: {month}, Year: {year}", each on a **new line**.

### Implement the Solution in C#

First off, we’re going to put our RegEx in a variable and get a MatchCollection from the string:



Since RegEx works differently across different languages, before we continue, we're going to **set our backreference from** \2 **to** \1. This is because **C# backreferences** don't count **named capture groups for backreferences**. So, **change it before we continue**.

Next, we're going to **iterate** over every single Match and **extract** the **day**, **month** and **year** from the **groups**. We can use a special syntax in C# to get a match’s group **value** by its **key**, the **same way** as when we access a Dictionary’s values:



### Examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Input** | **Output** |
| 13/Jul/1928, 10-Nov-1934, , 01/Jan-1951,f 25.Dec.1937 23/09/1973, 1/Feb/2016 | Day: 13, Month: Jul, Year: 1928  Day: 10, Month: Nov, Year: 1934  Day: 25, Month: Dec, Year: 1937 |
| 03-Mar-1878, 25/Apr/1915, 31-May-1916, 22/Jun-1941, 25.Dec.1937, 23/09/1973 | Day: 03, Month: Mar, Year: 1878  Day: 25, Month: Apr, Year: 1915  Day: 31, Month: May, Year: 1916  Day: 25, Month: Dec, Year: 1937 |