♣ \w(?=a)   matches a letter followed by an 'a'

❖ \w(?!a)   matches a letter *not* followed by an 'a'

Demo

Lookaheads

* $\backslash$w(?=a)   matches a letter followed by an 'a'

* $\backslash$w(?!a)   matches a letter *not* followed by an 'a'