**REGEXP\_COUNT**

REGEXP\_COUNT is a function that counts the number of times a pattern appears in a string literal.

# REGEXP\_COUNT (string\_literal, pattern [, position [, match\_param]])

**String\_literal**: This is the input string in which to find the number of pattern occurances

**Pattern**: This is the regular expression to find in the string\_literal. Max size can be up to 512 bytes.

**‘.’** As a pattern acts as a wild card and will return the whole length of the input string

[https://docs.oracle.com/cd/B28359\_01/server.111/b28286/ap\_posix.htm#SQLRF020](https://docs.oracle.com/cd/B28359_01/server.111/b28286/ap_posix.htm" \l "SQLRF020) provides information on how to build regular expressions.

**Position**: Optional parameter which indicates the start position from where to compare the string\_literal. If not provided, it is defaulted to 1.

**Match\_param**: Optional Parameter to control the operation of the method. To include this parameter, you must include the position parameter in the method.

Possible match\_param values:

**‘c’**: To perform case sensitive matching

**‘i’**: To perform case insensitive matching

**‘n’**: Allows the period character (.) to match the newline character. By default, the period is a wildcard.

**‘m’**: *expression* is assumed to have multiple lines, where ^ is the start of a line and $ is the end of a line, regardless of the position of those characters in *expression*. By default, an *expression* is assumed to be a single line.

**‘x’**: Whitespace characters are ignored. By default, whitespace characters are matched like any other character.

To combine match\_params, you just include them in the same quotes eg **‘in’** but if you combine contradicting params such as **‘ic’** oracle will use the last value in the parameter, in this case **‘c’**

**Examples**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('ABCD','a') FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 0 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('ABCD','A') FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 1 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('AAAA','A',3) FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 2 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('AAAaaaaaA','a',1,'c') FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 5 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('AAAaaaaaA','a',1,'i') FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 9 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('AAAAAAAAAAAA...AAAAAA.A','.') FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 23 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('A B C D E','.',1) FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 9 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('A B CE E','[A-Z] ',1) FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 3 |
| SELECT REGEXP\_COUNT('A B CE E','[A-Z] ',1,'x') FROM DUAL; | RETURNS 5 |

REFERENCES:

[https://docs.oracle.com/cd/B28359\_01/server.111/b28286/functions135.htm#SQLRF20014](https://docs.oracle.com/cd/B28359_01/server.111/b28286/functions135.htm%23SQLRF20014)

[https://docs.oracle.com/cd/B28359\_01/server.111/b28286/ap\_posix.htm#SQLRF020](https://docs.oracle.com/cd/B28359_01/server.111/b28286/ap_posix.htm" \l "SQLRF020)