

This matches the smallest number of repetitions:

Example	Description
<code><.*></code>	Greedy repetition: matches "<python>perl>".
<code><.*?></code>	Nongreedy: matches "<python>" in "<python>perl>".

Grouping with Parentheses

Example	Description
<code>\D\d+</code>	No group: + repeats \d.
<code>(\D\d)+</code>	Grouped: + repeats \D\d pair.
<code>([Pp]ython(,)?)+</code>	Match "Python", "Python, python, python", etc.

Backreferences

This matches a previously matched group again:

Example	Description
<code>([Pp])ython&\1ails</code>	Match python&pails or Python&Pails.
<code>(["'])[^\1]*\1</code>	Single or double-quoted string. \1 matches whatever the 1st group matched. \2 matches whatever the 2nd group matched, etc.

Alternatives

Example	Description
<code>python perl</code>	Match "python" or "perl".