**Grep’s Regular Expression Metacharacters (PCRE)**

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| ***Metacharacter*** | ***Function*** | ***Example*** | ***What It Matches*** |
| ^ | Beginning of line anchor | '^love' | Matches all lines beginning with  *love* |
| $ | End of line anchor | 'love$' | Matches all lines ending with  *love* |
| . | Matches one character | 'l..e' | Matches lines containing an *l*, followed bytwo characters, followed by an *e* |
| ? | Matches zero or one time of the  preceding characters | 'lo?ve' | Matches for an *l* followed by either one or not any *o*’s at all. Would find *love* or *lve* |
| \* | Matches zero or more times of the preceding character | ' \*love' | Matches lines with zero or more spaces, of the preceding characters followed by the pattern *love* |
| + | Matches one or more of the preceding characters | '[a–z]+ove' | Matches one or more lowercase  letters, followed by *ove*. Would find  *move*, *approve*, *love*, *behoove*, etc. |
| x-y | x-y code range | ‘[a-z]’ | Matches one lowercase letter between a-z |
| [ ] | Matches one character in the set | '[Ll]ove' | Matches lines containing *love* or *Love* |
| [^] | Matches one character not in the set | '[^A–K]ove' | Matches lines not containing *A* through *K* followed by *ove* |
| \< | Beginning of word anchor | '\<love' | Matches lines containing a word that  begins with *love* |
| \> | End of word anchor | 'love\>' | Matches lines containing a word that ends with *love* |
| | | Alternation - Matches either (ex. a|b 🡪 a or b ) | '(love)|(hate)' | Matches for either expression, *love*  or *hate* |
| ( ) | Groups characters | 'love(able|ly)  (ov)+' | Matches for *lovable* or *lovely*  Matches for one or more occurrences of *ov* |
| {m} | Repetition of preceding character m times | o{5} | Matches if line has 5 *o*’s |
| {m,} | at least m times | o{5,} | Matches if line has at least 5 *o*’s |
| {m,n} | between m and n times | o{5,10} | Matches if line has between 5 and 10 *o*’s |
| {,n} | at most n times |  |  |
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