

Syntax

What	Perl/PCRE	Python's re	POSIX (BRE)	POSIX extended (ERE)	ViM
Basics					
Custom character class	[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]
Negated custom character class	[^...]	[^...]	[^...]	[^...]	[^...]
\ special in class?	yes	yes	no,] escaped if comes first		
Ranges	[a-z] , - escaped if comes last	[a-z] , - escaped if first or last	[a-z] , - escaped if comes last		[a-z]
Alternation					\ \& (low precedence)
Escaped character	\033 \x1B \x{1234} \N{name} \N{U+263D}	\x12			\%d123 \%x2A \%u1234 \%U1234ABCD
Character classes					
Any character (except newline)
Any character (including newline)					_.
Match a "word" character (alphanumeric plus _)	\w [[:word:]]	\w	[[:word:]]	[[:word:]]	\w
Case	[[:upper:]] / [[:lower:]]		[[:upper:]] / [[:lower:]]	[[:upper:]] / [[:lower:]]	\u [[:upper:]] / \l [[:lower:]]
Match a non-"word" character	\W	\W			\W

Match a whitespace character (except newline)					\s [[[:space:]]]
Whitespace including newline	\s [[[:space:]]]	\s	[[[:space:]]]	[[[:space:]]]	_s
Match a non-whitespace character	\S	\S	[^[:space:]]	[^[:space:]]	\S [^[:space:]]
Match a digit character	\d [[[:digit:]]]	\d	[[[:digit:]]]	[[[:digit:]]]	\d [[[:digit:]]]
Match a non-digit character	\D	\D	[^[:digit:]]	[^[:digit:]]	\D [^[:digit:]]
Any hexadecimal digit	[[[:xdigit:]]]		[[[:xdigit:]]]	[[[:xdigit:]]]	\x [[[:xdigit:]]]
Any octal digit					\o
Any graphical character excluding "word" characters	[[[:punct:]]]		[[[:punct:]]]	[[[:punct:]]]	[[[:punct:]]]
Any alphabetical character	[[[:alpha:]]]		[[[:alpha:]]]	[[[:alpha:]]]	\a [[[:alpha:]]]
Non-alphabetical character			[^[:alpha:]]	[^[:alpha:]]	\A [^[:alpha:]]
Any alphanumerical character	[[[:alnum:]]]		[[[:alnum:]]]	[[[:alnum:]]]	[[[:alnum:]]]
ASCII	[[[:ascii:]]]		[[[:ascii:]]]	[[[:ascii:]]]	
Character equivalents (e = é = è) (as per locale)			[[=e=]]	[[=e=]]	[[=e=]]
Zero-width assertions					
Word boundary	\b	\b			\< / \>
Anywhere but word boundary	\B	\B			
Beginning of line/string	^ / \A	^ / \A	^	^	^ (beginning of pattern) _^
End of line/string	\$ / \Z	\$ / \Z	\$	\$	\$ (end of pattern) _\$
Captures and groups					
Capturing group	(...) (?<name>...)	(...) (?P<name>...)	\(...\)	(...)	\(...\)

Non-capturing group	(?:...)	(?:...)			\%(...\)
Backreference to a specific group.	\1 \g1 \g{-1}	\1	\1	\1 non-official	\1
Named backreference	\g{name} \k<name>	(?P=name)			

Look-around					
Positive look-ahead	(?=...)	(?=...)			\(...\)\@=
Negative look-ahead	(?!...)	(?!...)			\(...\)\@!
Positive look-behind	(?<=...)	(?<=...)			\(...\)\@<=
Negative look-behind	(?<!=...)	(?<!=...)			\(...\)\@<!

Multiplicity					
0 or 1	?	?	\?	?	\?
0 or more	*	*	*	*	*
1 or more	+	+	\+	+	\+
Specific number	{n} {n,m} {n,}	{n} {n,m} {n,}	\{n\} \{n,m\} \{n,\}	{n} {n,m} {n,}	\{n\} \{n,m\} \{n,}
0 or 1, non-greedy	?+	??			
0 or more, non-greedy	*+	*?			\{-}
1 or more, non-greedy	++	+			
Specific number, non-greedy	{n,m}+ {n,}+	{n,m}? {n,}?			\{-n,m\} \{-n,}
0 or 1, don't give back on backtrack	?+				
0 or more, don't give back on backtrack	*+				
1 or more, don't give back on backtrack	++				
Specific number, don't give back on backtrack	{n,m}+ {n,}?				

Other					
Independent non	(?>...)				\(...\)\@>

independent non-backtracking pattern	(?>...)				\(...\)\@>
Make case-sensitive/insensitive	(?i) / (?-i)	(?i) / (?-i)			\c / \C

Programs

What	Syntax	Comments/gotchas
Programming languages		
Perl	PCRE	PCRE is actually a separate implementation from Perl's, with slight differences
Python's re standard lib	Python's own syntax (Perl-inspired)	
Ruby	Ruby's own syntax (Perl-inspired)	
Java's java.util.regex	Almost PCRE	
Boost.Regex	PCRE	
Text editors		
Eclipse	PCRE	
Emacs	?	
Netbeans	PCRE	
Notepad++	PCRE (Boost.Regex)	
PyCharm	PCRE	Perl-inspired
Sublime Text	?	
UltraEdit	PCRE	
ViM	ViM	
Command-line tools		
awk	ERE	might depend on the implementation
grep	BRE, egrep for ERE, grep -P for PCRE (optional)	
less	ERE	usually; man page says "regular expression library supplied by your system"
screen	plain text	
sed	BRE, -E switches to ERE	

