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## No letter before word "variant" in regex

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I want to define regex that to detect word `variant` inside the text. The problem is that I want no letters before or after word `variant`.

I have done that:

```
Pattern variantPattern = Pattern.compile("[\\w]{0}variant[\\w]{0}");
```

but unfortunately word: `subvariant` also matches it.

[java](#) [regex](#)

asked Apr 5 '14 at 10:56



Yoda

6,509 50 142 246

3 Use the word anchor ( `\b` ) -- of course, double the backslash in a Java string – [fge](#) Apr 5 '14 at 10:57

1 [@fge](#) Make that an answer and I'll upvote it. – [Dawood ibn Kareem](#) Apr 5 '14 at 10:58

## 2 Answers

▲ You can use the word anchor `\b` :

3 

```
Pattern variantPattern = Pattern.c
```

▼  
Like all anchors, it will match a *position* in the input text (ie, it will not consume text) where one of these is true:

1. the previous character is not a word character and the next character is; or
2. the previous character is a word character and the next character

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word character; or

4. this is the end of the input text  
and the last character is a word  
character.

Some regex engines have even more specialized anchors ( \< for conditions 1 and 3, \> for conditions 2 and 4), but not Java.

answered Apr 5 '14 at 10:59



fge

91.3k 17 191 281



You can use word boundary \b :

2

**Pattern** wariantPattern = **Pattern**.c



answered Apr 5 '14 at 10:59



Szymon

38.9k 13 80 99