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# regfree() – Free memory for regular expression

Last Updated: 2021-06-25

## Standards

Standards / Extensions	C or C++	Dependencies
XPG4	both	
XPG4.2		
Single UNIX Specification, Version 3		

## Format

```
#include <regex.h>

void regfree(regex_t *preg);
```

## > General description

Frees any memory that was allocated by `regcomp()` to implement *preg*. The expression defined by *preg* is no longer a compiled regular or extended expression. (For a description of regular expressions, see [Regular expressions](#).)

## Example

### CELEBR10

```
/* CELEBR10

   This example compiles an extended regular expression and a
   free regular expression.

*/
#include <regex.h>
#include <locale.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

main() {
    regex_t    preg;
    char       *pattern = ".*(simple).*";
    int        rc;

    if ((rc = regcomp(&preg, pattern, REG_EXTENDED)) != 0) {
        printf("regcomp() failed, returning nonzero (%d)\n", rc);
        exit(1);
    }

    regfree(&preg);
}
```

&gt;

## Related information

- Topics about internationalization in [z/OS XL C/C++ Programming Guide](#)
- [regex.h](#) – Regular expression functions
- [regcomp\(\)](#) – Compile regular expression
- [regerror\(\)](#) – Return error message
- [regexexec\(\)](#) – Execute compiled regular expression

### Parent topic:

→ [Library functions](#)

### Previous

[regexexec\(\)](#) – Execute compiled regular expression

### Next

[release\(\)](#) – Delete a load module