

Javascript replace with reference to matched group?

Asked 9 years, 11 months ago Active 5 months ago Viewed 108k times



202



41

I have a string, such as `hello _there_` . I'd like to replace the two underscores with `<div>` and `</div>` respectively, using **JavaScript**. The output would (therefore) look like `hello <div>there</div>` . The string might contain multiple pairs of underscores.

What I am looking for is a way to **either** run a function on each match, the way Ruby does it:

```
"hello _there_".gsub(/_.*?_/) { |m| "<div>" + m[1..-2] + "</div>" }
```

Or be able to reference a matched group, again the way it can be done in ruby:

```
"hello _there_".gsub(/_(.*)_/, "<div>\\1</div>")
```

Any ideas or suggestions?

javascript

regex

edited Aug 3 '18 at 4:00



K48

6,431

10

46

101

asked Aug 5 '09 at 17:48



Sinan Taifour

7,024

2

26

29

3 Answers



335



```
"hello _there_".replace(/_(.*)_/, function(a, b){  
    return '<div>' + b + '</div>';  
})
```

Oh, or you could also:

```
"hello _there_".replace(/_(.*)_/, "<div>$1</div>")
```



edited Nov 24 '17 at 7:21



Rand Random

3,316 7 33 65

answered Aug 5 '09 at 17:51



airpartyh

13.8k 11 52 69

-
- 7 Does Javascript use `$1` instead of `\1` ? Would someone provide a link to documentation? – [daveloyall](#) Jun 11 '14 at 19:43
-
- 7 @daveloyall es5.github.io/#x15.5.4.11 – [Philipp Gayret](#) Jun 13 '14 at 7:37
-
- 3 `replacementValue` can be a function and it is passed different arguments based on the catch groups? Amazing! – [daveloyall](#) Jun 13 '14 at 20:36
-
- 3 i found `\1` worked but `$1` did NOT although I am using the RegExp variation: developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/... – [jsh](#) Oct 1 '15 at 7:55
-
- 1 @CalculatorFeline Saying "the regex itself" doesn't identify which one, as someone might be trying to use a regex for the replace. There must be many people trying to do this: `"hello _there_".replace(/_(.*?)/, /<div>\1</div>/)` . – [Stewart](#) Jun 23 '16 at 9:55 ✎
-

▲ You can use `replace` instead of `gsub` .

31

`"hello _there_".replace(/_(.*?)/g, "<div>\$1</div>")`

answered Aug 5 '09 at 17:52



Eifion

4,006 22 25

18 You can remove the backslash. – [CalculatorFeline](#) Apr 30 '16 at 0:15 ✎

▲ For the replacement string and the replacement pattern as specified by `$` . here a resume:

2

`.e()` To perform a global search and **replace**, include the **g** switch in the regular expression.

Specifying a string as a parameter

`.e()` The **replace**ment string can include the following special **replace**ment patterns:

Pattern	Inserts
<code>\$\$</code>	Inserts a "\$".
<code>\$&</code>	Inserts the matched substring.
<code>\$`</code>	Inserts the portion of the string that precedes the matched substring.
<code>\$'</code>	Inserts the portion of the string that follows the matched substring.
<code>\$n</code>	Where <code>n</code> is a positive integer less than 100, inserts the <code>n</code> th parenthesized submatch string, provided the first argument was a <code>RegExp</code> object. Note that this is 1-indexed.

Specifying a function as a parameter

You can specify a function as the second parameter. In this case, the function will be invoked

link to doc : [here](#)

```
"hello _there_".replace(/_(.*)_/g, "<div>$1</div>")
```

Note:

If you want to have a `$` in the replacement string use `$$` . Same as with vscode snippet system.

answered Feb 2 at 13:05



[Mohamed Allal](#)

3,309 20 24

