

# Regex match one of two words

Asked 8 years, 3 months ago   Active 3 months ago   Viewed 235k times



I have an input that can have only 2 values `apple` or `banana` . What regular expression can I use to ensure that either of the two words was submitted?

266



[regex](#) [forms](#) [validation](#)



42

asked Jul 28 '11 at 18:00



[CyberJunkie](#)

**8,275** 47 124 193

1 In what language/environment is this regex being implemented? Regex seems like unnecessary overhead in many situations. – [mickmackusa](#) Jun 1 at 9:31

## 3 Answers



This will do:

420

```
 /^(apple|banana)$/
```



to *exclude* from captured strings (e.g. `$1` , `$2` ):



```
 (?:apple|banana)
```

edited Dec 2 '16 at 9:57

answered Jul 28 '11 at 18:03



[phlogratos](#)

**9,354** 1 26 35

39 For some, using this as a non-capturing group will be useful. Using `(?:apple|banna)` will match either, but will not add them to the list of captured

strings (eg \$1 , \$2 .. \$N ). – [doub1ejack](#) Dec 18 '13 at 15:45 



There are different regex engines but I think most of them will work with this:

85

apple|banana



answered Jul 28 '11 at 18:03



[smoak](#)

10.2k 5 28 33

49 If you plan to put more in your regex, you'll need to put parentheses around your words, like this: (apple|banana) . – [Brian J](#) Oct 14 '14 at 13:01



Regular expression `/.txt|.tif/` can be used on SiteScope to locate 'File name match' for Directory monitor when search two different type files- files ending in .txt or .tif

-3



edited Nov 4 '16 at 21:57



[mhatch](#)

2,983 5 26 50

answered Nov 4 '16 at 18:14



[Sitescope goddess](#)

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