



Regular Expressions (Regex) are patterns used to match character combinations in strings. They are extremely powerful for searching, replacing, and manipulating text.

1. Literals.

- a, b, c : Match the exact characters a, b, and c.

2. Meta Characters.

- . Matches any single character except newline.

- ^ Matches the beginning of a string.

- \$ Matches the end of a string.

- * Matches 0 or more repetitions of the preceding element.

- + Matches 1 or more repetitions of the preceding element.

- ? Matches 0 or 1 repetition of the preceding element.
- [] Matches any one of the characters inside the brackets (character class).
- | Acts as an OR operator.
- () Groups patterns together.

Simple Matches

pattern : Cat

Matches : The exact string "Cat" in the text.

Any Character (.)

pattern : C.t

Matches : "Cat", "cot", "Cet", etc.

Negated Character Classes :

- Match any character not in the set.
- Example : [^abc] matches any character except "a", "b", or "c"

Anchors

- Specify positions in the string.
- ^ matches the start of the string.
- \$ matches the end of the string.

Beginning (^) & End (\$) of string :

pattern : ^cat

Matches : "cat" only if it appears at the beginning of the string.

pattern : cat\$

Matches : "cat" only if it appears at the end of the string.

pattern : ^cat \$

Matches : The exact string "cat".

character classes ([]) :

Pattern : [cb]at

Matches : "Cat" or "bat".

pattern : [a - z]

Matches : Any Lowercase Letter.

Define a set of characters to match.

Example : [abc] matches "a", "b", or "c".

predefined classes : \d (digits) , \w (word characters) ,
\s (whitespace).

Quantifiers (* , +, ?):

pattern : c a * t

Matches : "ct", "cat", "caat", "caaat", etc.

pattern : c a + t

Matches : "cat", "caat", "caaat", but not "ct".

Pattern : ca ? t

Matches : "ct" and "cat".

- Specify the number of occurrences.
- * (0 or more), + (1 or more), ? (0 or 1), {n} (exactly n), {n,} (n or more), {n, m} (between n and m.)

Alteration (1):

pattern : cat | dog

Matches : "cat" or "dog"

Grouping ()

pattern : (abc) +

Matches : "abc", "ab^cabc", "ab^cab^cabc", etc.

parentheses () Create groups for capturing matched sub-patterns.

Non-Capturing Groups

- Group without capturing
- Syntax (? : ...).
- Example : (? : abc | def) matches "abc" or "def" without capturing.

Escape characters (\):

pattern : \d

Matches : Any digit (0-9).

pattern : \w

Matches : Any word character (Letters, digits, underscore)

pattern : \s

Matches : Any whitespace character
(Space, tab, newline)

pattern : \\

Matches : A literal backslash.

1. Move Trailing Spaces to the Next Line .

Purpose : To ensure that any spaces at the end of a lines are moved to the beginning of the next line.

Find: (+) \$

This pattern matches one or more spaces to a new line.

Replace : \n \$1

This replacement moves the spaces to a new line.

2. Add a Newline After Every period

purpose: To insert a newline after every period,
effectively separating sentences onto new lines.

Find: (\.)

This pattern matches every period.

Replace: \$1\n

This replacement keeps the period & adds a newline
after it.

3. Split CamelCase Words into Separate Lines

purpose : To break up CamelCase words so that each segment appears on a new line.

Find : ([a-z])([A-Z])

This pattern matches a Lowercase letter followed by a Uppercase letter.

Replace : \$1\n\$2

This replacement inserts a newline between the Lowercase & Uppercase letters.

4. Move Comments to the Next Line

purpose : To move comments that are at the end of lines to their own separate lines

Find : `\s*(//.*) $`

This pattern matches zero or more whitespace characters followed by // and any subsequent characters at the end of a line.

Replace : `\n$1`

This replacement moves the comment to a new line.

5. Insert a Newline After Each Comma

purpose : to separate items in a comma-separated list onto new lines.

Find : ,

- Matches each comma.

Replace : ,\n

Adds a newline after each comma.

