**Match All Letters and Numbers**

Using character classes, you were able to search for all letters of the alphabet with [a-z]. This kind of character class is common enough that there is a shortcut for it, although it includes a few extra characters as well.

The closest character class in JavaScript to match the alphabet is \w. This shortcut is equal to [A-Za-z0-9\_]. This character class matches upper and lowercase letters plus numbers. Note, this character class also includes the underscore character (\_).

let longHand = /[A-Za-z0-9\_]+/;

let shortHand = /\w+/;

let numbers = "42";

let varNames = "important\_var";

longHand.test(numbers);

shortHand.test(numbers);

longHand.test(varNames);

shortHand.test(varNames);

All four of these test calls would return true.

These shortcut character classes are also known as *shorthand character classes*.