

JS & DOM Reference

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JavaScript RegExp Object

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RegExp Object

A regular expression is an object that describes a pattern of characters.

Regular expressions are used to perform pattern-matching and "search-and-replace" functions on text.

Syntax

```
var patt=new RegExp(pattern,modifiers);

or more simply:

var patt=/pattern/modifiers;
```

- pattern specifies the pattern of an expression
- modifiers specify if a search should be global, case-sensitive, etc.

For a tutorial about the RegExp object, read our [JavaScript RegExp Object tutorial](#).

Modifiers

Modifiers are used to perform case-insensitive and global searches:

Modifier	Description
<a href="#">i</a>	Perform case-insensitive matching
<a href="#">g</a>	Perform a global match (find all matches rather than stopping after the first match)
<a href="#">m</a>	Perform multiline matching

Brackets

Brackets are used to find a range of characters:

Expression	Description
<a href="#">[abc]</a>	Find any character between the brackets
<a href="#">[^abc]</a>	Find any character not between the brackets
<a href="#">[0-9]</a>	Find any digit from 0 to 9
<a href="#">[A-Z]</a>	Find any character from uppercase A to uppercase Z
<a href="#">[a-z]</a>	Find any character from lowercase a to lowercase z
<a href="#">[A-z]</a>	Find any character from uppercase A to lowercase z
<a href="#">[adgk]</a>	Find any character in the given set
<a href="#">[^adgk]</a>	Find any character outside the given set
<a href="#">(red blue green)</a>	Find any of the alternatives specified

Metacharacters

Metacharacters are characters with a special meaning:

Metacharacter	Description
<a href="#">.</a>	Find a single character, except newline or line terminator
<a href="#">\w</a>	Find a word character
<a href="#">\W</a>	Find a non-word character
<a href="#">\d</a>	Find a digit
<a href="#">\D</a>	Find a non-digit character
<a href="#">\s</a>	Find a whitespace character
<a href="#">\S</a>	Find a non-whitespace character
<a href="#">\b</a>	Find a match at the beginning/end of a word
<a href="#">\B</a>	Find a match not at the beginning/end of a word
<a href="#">\0</a>	Find a NUL character
<a href="#">\n</a>	Find a new line character
<a href="#">\f</a>	Find a form feed character
<a href="#">\r</a>	Find a carriage return character
<a href="#">\t</a>	Find a tab character
<a href="#">\v</a>	Find a vertical tab character
<a href="#">\xxx</a>	Find the character specified by an octal number xxx
<a href="#">\xdd</a>	Find the character specified by a hexadecimal number dd
<a href="#">\uxxxx</a>	Find the Unicode character specified by a hexadecimal number xxxx

Quantifiers

Quantifier	Description
<a href="#">n+</a>	Matches any string that contains at least one n
<a href="#">n*</a>	Matches any string that contains zero or more occurrences of n
<a href="#">n?</a>	Matches any string that contains zero or one occurrences of n
<a href="#">n{X}</a>	Matches any string that contains a sequence of X n's
<a href="#">n{X,Y}</a>	Matches any string that contains a sequence of X to Y n's
<a href="#">n{X,}</a>	Matches any string that contains a sequence of at least X n's
<a href="#">n\$</a>	Matches any string with n at the end of it
<a href="#">^n</a>	Matches any string with n at the beginning of it
<a href="#">?=n</a>	Matches any string that is followed by a specific string n
<a href="#">?!n</a>	Matches any string that is not followed by a specific string n

RegExp Object Properties

Property	Description
<a href="#">global</a>	Specifies if the "g" modifier is set
<a href="#">ignoreCase</a>	Specifies if the "i" modifier is set
<a href="#">lastIndex</a>	The index at which to start the next match
<a href="#">multiline</a>	Specifies if the "m" modifier is set
<a href="#">source</a>	The text of the RegExp pattern

RegExp Object Methods

Method	Description
<a href="#">compile()</a>	Compiles a regular expression
<a href="#">exec()</a>	Tests for a match in a string. Returns the first match
<a href="#">test()</a>	Tests for a match in a string. Returns true or false

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