Perl Regular Expression Quick Reference 1.05

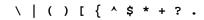
N.B.: this quick reference is just that - some of the explanations have been simplified. For the authoritative documentation, see the latest edition of *Programming Perl* or perldoc perlre.

Specific characters:

\t	A tab character
\n	A newline character (OS neutral)
\r	A carriage return character
\f	A form feed character
\cX	Control character CTRL-X
\NNN	Octal code for character NNN

Metacharacters:

The following 12 characters need to be escaped with a backslash - "\" - because by default, they mean something special.



•	Match any one character (except \n)
	Alternation
()	Group and capture
[]	Define character class
١	Modify the meaning of the next char.

Anchors:

٨	Match at the beginning of a string (or line)
\$	Match at the end of a string (or line)
\b	Match at a 'word' boundary
\B	Match at not a 'word' boundary

These are also known as zero width assertions.

Quantifiers:

These quantifiers apply to the preceding *atom*.

*	Match 0 or more times	
+	Match 1 or more times	
?	Match 0 or 1 times	
{N}	Match exactly n times	
$\{N,\}$	Match at least n times	
$\{N,M\}$	Match at least N but not more than	
	M times	

By default, quantifiers are "greedy". They attempt to match as many characters as possible. In order to make them match as few characters as possible, follow them with a question mark "?".

Character class metacharacters:

٨	If the first character of a class, negates
	that class
-	Unless first or last character of a class,
	used for a range

Character class shortcuts:

\d	[0-9]	A digit
\D	[^0-9]	A non-digit
\s	[\t\n\r\f]	A whitespace char.
\s	[^ \t\n\r\f]	A non-whitespace
		char.
\w	[a-zA-Z0-9_]	A 'word' char.
\W	[^a-zA-Z0-9_]	A 'non-word' char.

These shortcuts can be used either on their own, or within a character class.

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Metaquote & case translations:

\Q	Quote (de-meta) characters until \E
\٣	Uppercase characters until \ E
\L	Lowercase characters until \E

Special variables:

\$`	The characters to the left of the match
\$&	The characters that matched
\$ <i>'</i>	The characters to the right of the match
\ N	The characters captured by the N th set of
	parentheses (if on the match side)
\$N	The characters captured by the N th set of
	parentheses (if not on the match side)

Modifiers:

These modifiers apply to the entire pattern

/i	Ignore case
/g	Match globally (all)
/m	Let ^ and \$ match next to embedded \n
/s	Let • match \n
/x	Ignore most whitespace and allow
	comments
/e	Evaluate right hand side of s /// as an
	expression

All except /e apply to both m// and s///.

Binding operators:

=~	True if the regex matches
! ~	True if the regex doesn't match

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