

Metacharacter Examples

The following table lists examples of metacharacters.

Metacharacter	Behavior
	dog cat fox matches "dog" or "cat" or "fox" (d f)og matches "dog" or "fog"
\d	\d\d\d\d matches any four-digits (0-9) such as "0123" or "6387"
\D	\D\D\D\D matches any four non-digits such as "WxYz" or "AVG%"
\s	\sBob\s matches " Bob " \D\D\D\D\s\d matches "Apt# 5"
\w	\w\w\w\w\w\w\w matches any seven-word characters such as "F_Last2"
.	mi.e matches "mike" or "mice" ..i.e matches "white" or "smile"
[...]	[dmn]ice matches "dice" or "mice" or "nice" \d[6789]\d matches "162" or "574" or "685" or "999"
[^...]	[^mn]ice matches "dice" but not "mice" or "nice" \d[^6789]\d matches "152" or "608" but not "574" or "999"
^	^ter matches "terrific" but not "test"
\$	ter\$ matches "winter" but not "winner"
\b	Corp\b matches "Corp." or "Corp XYZ" but not "Corporation" or "Corp123" or "Corp_A"
\B	Corp\B matches "Corporation" or "Corp123" or "Corp_A" but not "Corp." or "Corp XYZ"
*	dog* (g can appear 0 or more times) matches "do" or "dog" or "doggg"
+	dog+ (g can appear 1 or more times) matches "dog" or "doggg" but not "do"
?	dog? (g can appear 0 or 1 times) matches "do" or "dog"
{n}	\w{7} matches any seven-word characters such as "F_Last2" dog{3} matches the letters "do" plus letter "g" three times such as "doggg" (dog){3} matches the letters "dog" three times such as "dogdogdog"
\	\(\\d+\) matches a value with a "(", one or more digits, and a ")" such as "(123)"
\n	(\dA\d)\1 matches "1A21A2" (first grouping is repeated) but not "1A23A4" (B\dB)(\dA\d)\1 matches "B9B1A2B9B" (first grouping is repeated) (B\dB)(\dA\d)\2 matches "B9B1A21A2" (second grouping is repeated)