Grep

This cheat sheet is intended to be a quick reminder for the main concepts involved in using the command line program grep and assumes you already understand its usage.

Getting started

Usage

Search standard output (i.e. a stream of text)

```
$ grep [options] search_string
```

Search for an exact string in file:

```
$ grep [options] search_string path/to/file
```

Print lines in myfile.txt containing the string "mellon"

```
$ grep 'mellon' myfile.txt
```

Wildcards are accepted in filename.

Option examples

-i	grep -i ^DA demo.txt	Forgets about case sensitivity
-w	grep -w "of" demo.txt	Search only for the full word
-A	grep -A 3 'Exception' error.log	Display 3 lines after matching string
-B	grep -B 4 'Exception' error.log	Display 4 lines before matching string
-C	grep -C 5 'Exception' error.log	Display 5 lines around matching string
-r	grep -r 'quickref.me' /var/log/nginx/	Recursive search (within subdirs)
-v	grep -v 'warning' /var/log/syslog	Return all lines which don't match the pattern
-e	grep -e '^al' filename	Use regex (lines starting with 'al')

-E	grep -E 'ja(s|cks)on' filename	Extended regex (lines containing jason or jackson)
-c	grep -c 'error' /var/log/syslog	Count the number of matches
-l	grep -l 'robot' /var/log/*	Print the name of the file(s) of matches
-o	grep -o search_string filename	Only show the matching part of the string
-n	grep -n "go" demo.txt	Show the line numbers of the matches

Basic regular expressions

- **Regex syntax** (quickref.me)

- **Regex examples** (quickref.me)

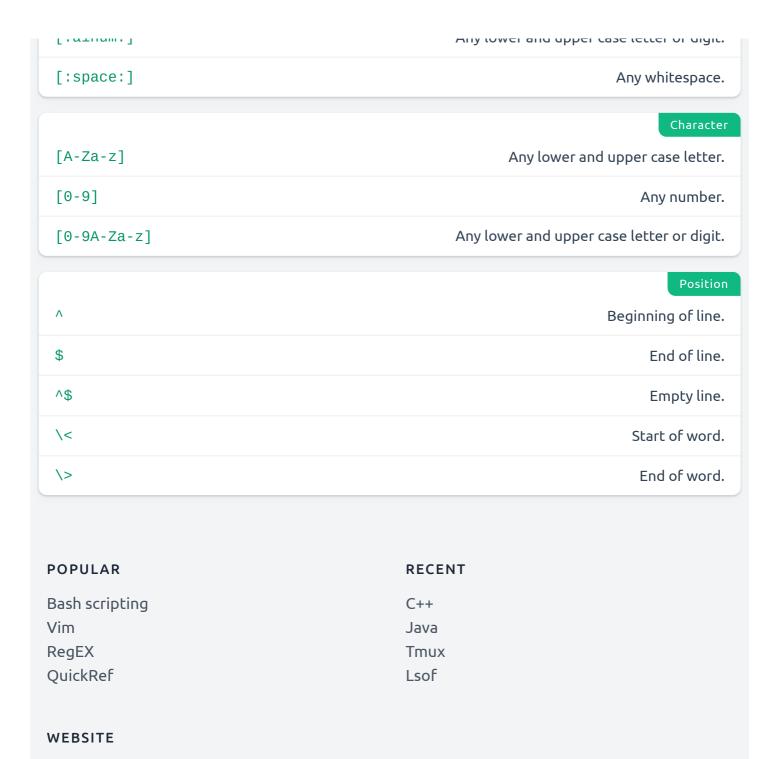Please refer to the full version of the regex cheat sheet for more complex requirements.

Wildcards

.	Any character.
?	Optional and can only occur once.
*	Optional and can occur more than once.
+	Required and can occur more than once.

Quantifiers

{n}	Previous item appears exactly n times.
{n,}	Previous item appears n times or more.
{,m}	Previous item appears n times maximum.
{n,m}	Previous item appears between n and m times.

POSIX

[:alpha:]	Any lower and upper case letter.
[:digit:]	Any number.
[:alnum:]	Any lower and upper case letter or digit.

`[:alnum:]`	Any lower and upper case letter or digit.
`[:space:]`	Any whitespace.

	Character
`[A-Za-z]`	Any lower and upper case letter.
`[0-9]`	Any number.
`[0-9A-Za-z]`	Any lower and upper case letter or digit.

	Position
`^`	Beginning of line.
`$`	End of line.
`^$`	Empty line.
`\<`	Start of word.
`\>`	End of word.

POPULAR

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RegEX
QuickRef

RECENT

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