Compiling

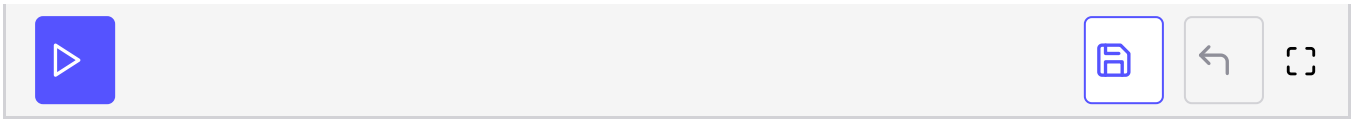
The re module allows you to “compile” the expressions that you are searching for frequently. This will basically allow you to turn your expression into a **SRE_Pattern** object. You can then use that object in your search function. Let’s use the code from earlier and modify it to use compile:

```
import re

text = "The ants go marching one by one"

strings = ['the', 'one']

for string in strings:
    regex = re.compile(string)
    match = re.search(regex, text)
    if match:
        print('Found "{}" in "{}"'.format(string, text))
        text_pos = match.span()
        print(text[match.start():match.end()])
    else:
        print('Did not find "{}"'.format(string))
```



You will note that here we create our pattern object by calling compile on each string in our list and assigning the result to the variable, **regex**. We then pass that regex to our search function. The rest of the code is the same. The primary reason to use **compile** is to save it to be reused later on in your code. However, compile also takes some flags that can used to enable various special features. We will take a look at that next.

Special Note: When you compile patterns, they will get automatically cached so if you aren’t using lot of regular expressions in your code, then you may not need to save the compiled object to a variable.