

REGEX CHEAT SHEET

Python, PHP, and Perl Supported Metacharacters

Metacharacters	Meaning
<code>\a</code>	Alert
<code>\b</code>	Backspace
<code>\n</code>	Newline
<code>\r</code>	Carriage return
<code>\f</code>	Form feed
<code>\t</code>	Horizontal tab
<code>\octal</code>	Character specified by a three-digit octal code
<code>[...]</code>	Range
<code>[^...]</code>	Not in range
<code>.</code>	Any character except newline
<code>\w</code>	Word character [a-zA-Z0-9_]
<code>\W</code>	Nonword character [^a-zA-Z0-9_]
<code>\d</code>	Digit character [0-9]
<code>\D</code>	Nondigit character [^0-9]
<code>\s</code>	Whitespace character [\n\r\f\t]
<code>\S</code>	Nonwhitespace character [^\n\r\f\t]
<code>^</code>	Start of string
<code>\A</code>	Start of search string, in all match modes
<code>\$</code>	End of string
<code>\Z</code>	End of string, or the point before a string-ending newline, in any match mode
<code>\b</code>	Word boundary
<code>\B</code>	Not-word-boundary
<code>(?=...)</code>	Positive lookahead
<code>(?!...)</code>	Negative lookahead
<code>(?<=...)</code>	Positive lookbehind
<code>(?<!...)</code>	Negative lookbehind
<code>i</code>	Case-insensitive matching
<code>m</code>	<code>^</code> and <code>\$</code> match next to embedded <code>\n</code>
<code>s</code>	Dot (.) matches newline
<code>x</code>	Ignore whitespace, and allow comments (#) in pattern
<code>(?mode)</code>	Turn list modes on for the rest of the subexpression
<code>(?#...)</code>	Treat substring as a comment
<code>#...</code>	Rest of the line is treated as a comment in x mode
<code>(...)</code>	Group subpattern and capture submatch into <code>\1</code> , <code>\2</code> , ..
<code>\n</code>	Contains the result of nth earlier submatch from a parentheses capture group, or a named capture group
<code>(?:...)</code>	Groups subpattern, but does not capture submatch
<code>... ...</code>	Try subpatterns in alternation
<code>*</code>	Match 0 or more times
<code>+</code>	Match 1 or more times
<code>?</code>	Match 1 or 0 times
<code>{n}</code>	Match exactly n times
<code>{x,y}</code>	Match at least x times, but no more than y times
<code>*?</code>	Match 0 or more times, but a few times as possible
<code>+?</code>	Match 1 or more times, but a few times as possible
<code>??</code>	Match 0 or 1 times, but as few times as possible
<code>{x,y}?</code>	Match at least x times, no more than y times, and as few times as possible