

Regular Expressions

Special Characters

Character	Definition	Example	Matches
*	0 or more	/ab*c/	ac, abc, abbc, abbbc, ...
+	1 or more	/ab+c/	abc, abbc, abbbc, abbbbc, ...
?	0 or 1	/ab?c/	ac, abc
[]	character set	/a[jkl]c/	ajc, akc, alc
		/a[A-Z]c/	aAc, aBc, aCc, aDc, ...
.	any single character	/a.c/	aAc, a4c, a(c, a-c, ...
	disjunction (OR)	/a b/	a, b
()	used to group	/a(bj dk)c/	abjc, adkc
		/(a an the)/	a, an, the

Use backslash (\) to match any of the special characters directly.

Combining Special Characters

Example	Matches
/a(bc)?d/	ad, abcd
/a(bc)*d/	ad, abcd, abcbcd, abcbcbcd, ...
/a(bc)+d/	abcd, abcbcd, abcbcbcd, ...
/a(bc ef)+d/	abcd, aefd, abcbcd, aefefd, ...
/a.*d/	ad, aCd, ae5d, aQ79d, ...
/a\.d/	a.d