Looked cheats

A concise reference for regular expressions, covering common syntax, metacharacters, and usage examples to help you quickly craft and understand regex patterns.

Regex Basics & Metacharacters

Basic Matching

`/pattern/` - Matches the literal string 'pattern'.

Example:
`/hello/` matches 'hello' in 'hello world'.

`.` - Matches any single character except newline.

Example:
`/.at/` matches 'cat', 'hat', 'sat', etc.

`\` - Escapes a special character to treat it literally.

Example:
`/\./` matches a literal dot ('.').

`^` - Matches the beginning of the string.

Example:
`/^hello/` matches 'hello' only if it's at the start.

`$` - Matches the end of the string.

Example:
`/world$/` matches 'world' only if it's at the end.

`|` - Acts as an 'OR' operator.

Example:
`/cat|dog/` matches either 'cat' or 'dog'.

Character Classes

`[abc]` - Matches any single character 'a', 'b', or 'c'.

Example:
`/[bc]at/` matches 'bat' or 'cat'.

`[^abc]` - Matches any single character *except* 'a', 'b', or 'c'.

Example:
`/[^bc]at/` matches 'hat' but not 'bat' or 'cat'.

`[a-z]` - Matches any lowercase letter from 'a' to 'z'.

Example:
`/[a-z]at/` matches 'bat', 'cat', 'dat', etc.

`[A-Z]` - Matches any uppercase letter from 'A' to 'Z'.

Example:
`/[A-Z]at/` matches 'Bat', 'Cat', 'Dat', etc.

`[0-9]` - Matches any digit from 0 to 9.

Example:
`/[0-9]at/` matches '1at', '2at', '3at', etc.

`\w` - Matches any word character (letters, numbers, and underscore).

Example:
`/\w+/` matches 'hello', 'world123', 'abc_def'.

Quantifiers & Grouping

Quantifiers

`*` - Matches the preceding character zero or more times.

Example:
`/a*/` matches '', 'a', 'aa', 'aaa', etc.

`+` - Matches the preceding character one or more times.

Example:
`/a+/` matches 'a', 'aa', 'aaa', but not ''.

`?` - Matches the preceding character zero or one time.

Example:
`/a?/` matches '' or 'a'.

`{n}` - Matches the preceding character exactly n times.

Example:
`/a{3}/` matches 'aaa'.

`{n,}` - Matches the preceding character n or more times.

Example:
`/a{2,}/` matches 'aa', 'aaa', 'aaaa', etc.

`{n,m}` - Matches the preceding character between n and m times (inclusive).

Example:
`/a{2,4}/` matches 'aa', 'aaa', or 'aaaa'.

Grouping and Capturing

`()` - Groups characters together and captures the matched group.

Example:
`/(ab)+/` matches one or more occurrences of 'ab'.

`(?:pattern)` - Groups characters without capturing the group.

Example:
`/(?:ab)+/` matches one or more occurrences of 'ab', but doesn't capture it.

`\1`, `\2`, ... - Backreferences to captured groups.

Example:
`/(.)(.)\2\1/` matches 'abba', 'xyyx', etc.

Anchors & Lookarounds

Anchors

`^` - Matches the beginning of the string or line (in multiline mode).

Example:
`/^start/m` matches 'start' at the beginning of each line.

`$` - Matches the end of the string or line (in multiline mode).

Example:
`/end$/m` matches 'end' at the end of each line.

`\b` - Matches a word boundary (the position between a word character and a non-word character).

Example:
`/\bword\b/` matches 'word' as a whole word.

`\B` - Matches a non-word boundary.

Example:
`/\Bword\B/` matches 'awordb' but not 'word'.

Lookarounds

`(?=pattern)` - Positive lookahead assertion: ensures that the pattern follows, but doesn't include it in the match.

Example:
`/\w+(?=\s)/` matches a word followed by a space, but doesn't include the space.

`(?<=pattern)` - Positive lookbehind assertion: ensures that the pattern precedes, but doesn't include it in the match.

Example:
`/(?<=\s)\w+/` matches a word preceded by a space, but doesn't include the space.

`(?!pattern)` - Negative lookahead assertion: ensures that the pattern does not follow.

Example:
`/\d+(?!\.)/` matches a number not followed by a dot.

`(?<!pattern)` - Negative lookbehind assertion: ensures that the pattern does not precede.

Example:
`/(?<!\.)\d+/` matches a number not preceded by a dot.

Common Regex Patterns

Common Patterns

URL:
`(https?:\/\/(?:www\.|(?!www))[a-zA-Z0-9][a-zA-Z0-9-]+[a-zA-Z0-9]\.[^\s]{2,}|www\.[a-zA-Z0-9][a-zA-Z0-9-]+[a-zA-Z0-9]\.[^\s]{2,}|https?:\/\/(?:www\.|(?!www))[a-zA-Z0-9]+\.[^\s]{2,}|www\.[a-zA-Z0-9]+\.[^\s]{2,})`

Matches a URL.

Email:
`[a-zA-Z0-9._%+-]+@[a-zA-Z0-9.-]+\.[a-zA-Z]{2,}`

Validates a basic email format.

IP Address:
`\b(?:\d{1,3}\.){3}\d{1,3}\b`

Matches an IPv4 address.

Date (YYYY-MM-DD):
`\d{4}-\d{2}-\d{2}`

Matches a date in YYYY-MM-DD format.

Phone Number (US):
`\b\d{3}[-]\d{3}[-]\d{4}\b`

Matches a US phone number format (XXX-XXX-XXXX).

HTML Tag:
`<[^>]+>`

Matches an HTML tag.

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