

Regular Expressions Quick Reference

SYMBOL	A W K	C S P L I T	E G R E P	E M A C S	E X P R	G R E P	P E R L	S E D	V I	MEANING
One-character matches										
.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Match any 1 character
[set]	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Match any character in set
[^set]	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Match any character not in set
Quantifiers										
R*	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Match 0 or more of R
R+	•		•	•			•			Match 1 or more of R
R?	•		•	•			•			Match 0 or 1 of R
R{n}							•			Match exactly n occurrences of R
R{n}							•		•	
R{n,m}							•			Match from n to m occurrences of R
R{n,m}							•		•	
Anchors										
^	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Match beginning of line
\$	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Match end of line
\<text\>						• ¹			•	Match standalone word (text must be surrounded by non-word characters, beginning of line, or end of line)
\btext\b							•			
Group										
()	•		•	•			•			Group contents and remember what was matched
\(\)					•			•	•	
R ₁ R ₂	•		•	•			•			Match R ₁ or R ₂
Miscellaneous										
\	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Turn off special meaning ("escape")
¹ This works with most versions of grep; if it does not, the -w option causes the entire pattern to be treated as a standalone word.										

