

Square brackets

[]

Used to indicate a set of characters. In a set:

- Characters can be listed individually, e.g. [amk] will match 'a', 'm', or 'k'.
- Ranges of characters can be indicated by giving two characters and separating them by a '-', for example [a-z] will match any lowercase ASCII letter, [0-5][0-9] will match all the two-digits numbers from 00 to 59, and [0-9A-Fa-f] will match any hexadecimal digit. If - is escaped (e.g. [a\z]) or if it's placed as the first or last character (e.g. [-a] or [a-]), it will match a literal '-'.
- Special characters lose their special meaning inside sets. For example, [(+*)] will match any of the literal characters '(', '+', '*', or ')'.
- Character classes such as \w or \S (defined below) are also accepted inside a set, although the characters they match depend on the [flags](#) used.
- Characters that are not within a range can be matched by complementing the set. If the first character of the set is '^', all the characters that are not in the set will be matched. For example, [^5] will match any character except '5', and [^^] will match any character except '^'. ^ has no special meaning if it's not the first character in the set.
- To match a literal ']' inside a set, precede it with a backslash, or place it at the beginning of the set. For

example, both `[(){}]` and `[](){}` will match a right bracket, as well as left bracket, braces, and parentheses.