Explain \b (word boundary)

\b
Matches the empty string, but only at the beginning or end of a word.

A word is defined as a sequence of word characters. Note that formally, \b is defined as the boundary between a \w and a \W character (or vice versa),

or between \w and the beginning or end of the string.

This means that r'\bat\b' matches 'at', 'at.', '(at)', and 'as at ay' but not 'attempt' or 'atlas'.