

3. EXAMPLES 1

Examples with the Period

Introduction

We will remember that the period metacharacter represents any other single character, which can be a letter, number, or symbol. And that we can match "Damian" and "Damien" using the following Regular Expression:

```
Regex_Pattern = "Dami.n"
```

And, we note that it does match to other Strings as well including: "Damixn", "Dami5n", "Dami=n", and "Dami n", so it's an *approximate solution*.

String Length

If we were looking for a String that has to be at least 5 characters long, we could create a regular expression of 5 periods, and that will only match with Strings that are at least 5 characters long, as follows:

```
Regex_Pattern = "....."
```

So we would get the following matches (and many others):

Test_Message = "abcde"	MATCH ✓
Test_Message = "H3llo"	MATCH ✓
Test_Message = "a z"	MATCH ✓

And it wouldn't match with a String that was 4 characters (or less) long:

Test_Message = "wxyz"	NO MATCH ✗
Test_Message = "1234"	NO MATCH ✗

String Format

An ISBN number (International Standard Book Number) is a code that is used to uniquely identify books. It takes the format of a series of digits separated by dashes, with a total of 13 digits (3 digits followed by 2 digits, followed by 5 digits, followed by 2 digits, followed by 1 digit). For example:

- 978-02-41953-53-2
- 978-03-74537-14-2
- 978-04-25054-71-0

The digits in the ISBN can be represented by the period, but the dash character is a special character in using Regular Expressions, so it needs to be preceded with two slashes (as we've seen before with other special characters), as follows: \ -

So bringing it all together, a potential Regular Expression for ISBNs is as follows:

```
Regex_Pattern = "...\\-..\\-.....\\-..\\-."
```

This will only match a collection of digits (or numbers or symbols) in the ISBN format.

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