

Regular expression anchoring

```
$ grep baba words # All lines (words) containing baba
baba
babacoote
babai
babasco
babassu
babaylan
Cayubaba
Cayubaban
$ grep '^baba' words # All lines (words) starting with baba
baba
babacoote
babai
babasco
babassu
babaylan
$ grep 'baba$' words # All words ending with baba
baba
Cayubaba
$
```

Match any character

```
$ grep a.a.a.a words | head # Words containing a followed by anything ...
acatamathesia
amadavat
amalaka
anabata
anacara
anacatadidymus
anagalactic
anapaganize
anapanapa
apadana
$ grep '^t.y$' words # Three letter words starting with t, ending with y
tay
thy
toy
try
$ grep '^....$' words | wc -l # Number of four-letter words
5272
$
```

Repetition

```
$ grep '^k.*d.*k$' words
kedlock
kodak
$ grep '^a*b*c*d*e*f*g*h*i*j*k*l*m*n*o*p*q*r*s*t*u*v*w*x*y*z*$' words | wc -l
661
$
```

Match sets of characters

```
$ grep '[0-9]' words # Lines containing a digit
$ grep '^k.[bdgkpt].k$' words # Words with a hard consonant between ks
kapok
kodak
$ grep '^[A-Z]' words | wc -l # Number of proper nouns
25197
```

```
$ grep '[^A-Za-z]' words # Lines with non-alphabetic characters
Jean-Christophe
Jean-Pierre
$ find /cygdrive/c -maxdepth 1 -type d | # Find top level directories
> grep '[:,space:]' # List those whose name has a space character
/cygdrive/c/Program Files
/cygdrive/c/Program Files (x86)
/cygdrive/c/System Volume Information
$
```

Escape with backslash

```
$ find /etc | grep '\.' | head # Files containing a dot character
/etc/bash.bashrc
/etc/bash.bash_logout
/etc/bash_completion.d
/etc/bash_completion.d/gapplication
/etc/bash_completion.d/gdbus
/etc/bash_completion.d/gresource
/etc/bash_completion.d/gsettings
/etc/bash_completion.d/svn
/etc/dbus-1/session.conf
/etc/dbus-1/session.d
$
```