

# regex search and replace

The regex search and replace is a Wiki feature that allows strings of characters in a wiki page to be replaced with other strings.

Syntax: (this syntax may possibly work)

A vertical bar separates alternatives. For example, `gray|grey` can match "gray" or "grey".

Grouping

Parentheses are used to define the scope and precedence of the operators (among other uses). For example, `gray|grey` and `gr(a|e)y` are equivalent patterns which both describe the set of "gray" and "grey".

Quantification

A quantifier after a token (such as a character) or group specifies how often that preceding element is allowed to occur. The most common quantifiers are `?`, `*`, and `+`.

`?` The question mark indicates there is zero or one of the preceding element. For example, `colou?r` matches both "color" and "colour".

`*` The asterisk indicates there are zero or more of the preceding element. For example, `ab*c` matches "ac", "abc", "abbc", "abbbc", and so on.

`+` The plus sign indicates that there is one or more of the preceding element. For example, `ab+c` matches "abc", "abbc", "abbbc", and so on, but not "ac".

These constructions can be combined to form arbitrarily complex expressions, much like one can construct arithmetical expressions from numbers and the operations `+`, `^`, `*`, and `÷`. For example, `H(ae?|ä)ndel` and `H(a|ae|ä)ndel` are both valid patterns which match the same strings as the earlier example, `H(ä|ae?)ndel`.