

# Re: In Find and Replace: How To Find Any Combination Of Characters

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2008-05/msg00595.html>

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- *From:* John McGhie <[john@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:john@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 15 May 2008 19:54:00 +0930
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Hi Rafael:

All five. Three of them were not there when I looked :-)

The online help is currently expanding quite quickly, as a result of user requests.

Cheers

On 14/05/08 11:43 AM, in article C44F98E1.7B2D%rmnospam@xxxxxxx, "Rafael Montserrat" <[rmnospam@xxxxxxx](mailto:rmnospam@xxxxxxx)> wrote:

Hi John,

Thanks. I'll do that.

Searching Word help for "wildcards" brings up five leads. They all seem pertinent to what I need to know, but you mentioned there being only two articles. Which two here might you be referring to?

- 1 Troubleshooting finding & replacing text or formatting
- 2 Advanced search methods
- 3 When I use wildcards, Word doesn't find certain text.
- 4 When I use wildcards, Word can't search for certain items.
5. Word doesn't find the item I'm searching for.

As for RegEx, I know nothing about it. I did a search in Help. Twenty items came up, but in opening some at random I didn't see 'RegEx'. In other words, in Help, I didn't find a place to study RegEx.

I did a Google search and came up with this page,  
<http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=RegEx&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Do you recommend that I sift through these Google items myself, in which case do you recommend any particular ones? Do you want to clue me in? Can

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you direct me to a MVP paper on the topic?

Finally, can I send a screenshot in the body of an email to the newsgroup?  
I took a screenshot of something I wanted to sent to NG that wouldn't  
copy-paste.

Again, Thanks, Rafael :-)

On 5/13/08 4:29 AM, in article C44FB1CE.14CF5%john@xxxxxxxxxxxx, "John  
McGhie" <john@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi Rafael:

At this stage, I need to direct you to search the Word help for the word  
"wildcards" and read both articles that appear, carefully and fully.

These topics describe the simplified version of Regular Expressions that  
Word's Find/Replace implements.

If you know RegEx, you will be right at home. If not, you need to study it  
very carefully, and experiment.

It helps greatly to have a very accurate and definitive "problem statement"  
before you start. Remember that you are programming a computer when you  
do  
this. For example, the problem statement in your question cannot be  
satisfied -- it is the RegEx equivalent of a "divide by zero" error. If you  
managed to code it, the fine would find the entire content of the document.

The wild card ^? matches any single character, but only ONE character in the  
indicated position. Contrast this with \* , which matches "any number of  
characters" in the indicated position.

Cheers

On 13/05/08 5:20 AM, in article C44DE68F.7726%rmnospam@xxxxxxx,  
"Rafael  
Montserrat" <rmnospam@xxxxxxx> wrote:

OS 10.4.11  
Ibook G4  
1.5 GB Ram  
Word 2004

Hi,

In Find and Replace, how do I find \*any\* word, character,  
digit, or

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combination of any of those? I see that for "Any Character",  
the code is  
^?, but I can't figure out how that works.

Thanks, Rafael

PS. Would all of us please leave the entire string of posts on  
each email?

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Don't wait for your answer, click here: <http://www.word.mvps.org/>

Please reply in the group. Please do NOT email me unless I ask you to.

John McGhie, Microsoft MVP, Word and Word:Mac  
Nhulunbuy, NT, Australia. <mailto:john@xxxxxxxxxxx>

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