Another Example with the Period

Introduction

We remember that the period metacharacter *__represents any other single character, which can be a letter, number, or symbol__*.

String Format

Mobile telephone numbers in Ireland have a prefix of either 085, 086 or 087, and then are followed by seven digits. For example:

- `(085) 1234567`
- `(086) 2345678`
- `(087) 3456789`

So let's look at each individual element of that format:

Element	Regular Expression
`Open Bracket`	We can express this as: \\ (
`Prefix`	It's either 085, 086 or 087, so let's express it as: `08.`
`Close Bracket`	We can express this as: \\)
`Space`	Let's use the space character itself to match with space
`Seven Digits`	We can use seven periods to match the seven digits

So bringing it all together, the Regular Expression is the following:

`RegEx_Pattern = "\\(08.\\) ......."`

And, this will match to any of the phone numbers presented above, as follows:

`Test_Message = "(085) 1234567"`	**MATCH** ✓
`Test_Message = "(086) 2345678"`	**MATCH** ✓
`Test_Message = "(087) 3456789"`	**MATCH** ✓

And it wouldn't match with a String that doesn't match that format:

`Test_Message = "(085)1234567"`	**NO MATCH** ✗
`Test_Message = "(08)5 1234567"`	**NO MATCH** ✗
`Test_Message = "(085) 123456"`	**NO MATCH** ✗

But we will remember that this Regular Expression also matches many other Strings that might be invalid phone numbers, for example:

`Test_Message = "(08A) ABCDEFG"`	**MATCH** ✓
`Test_Message = "(08@) !£$%^&*"`	**MATCH** ✓
`Test_Message = "(08 )        "`	**MATCH** ✓

So the Period will match letters and symbols as well as numbers.