

Between two strings

Extract content between two known markers.

```
BEGIN(.*?)END
```

Token-by-token breakdown

Token	Meaning
BEGIN	literal text "BEGIN"
(	start of a capturing group
.*?	zero or more (lazy — as few as possible) of any character
)	end of group
END	literal text "END"

Quick usage in 7 languages

JavaScript	<pre>const re = /BEGIN(.*?)END/; re.test(value);</pre>
Python	<pre>import re re.match(r"BEGIN(.*?)END", value)</pre>
Java	<pre>Pattern.compile("BEGIN(.*?)END").matcher(value).matches();</pre>
C# / .NET	<pre>Regex.IsMatch(value, @"BEGIN(.*?)END");</pre>
Go	<pre>regexp.MustCompile(`BEGIN(.*?)END`).MatchString(value)</pre>
Ruby	<pre>/BEGIN(.*?)END/.match?(value)</pre>
PHP	<pre>preg_match('~BEGIN(.*?)END~', \$value);</pre>

Common pitfalls

- **Not anchored.** Without `^` and `$` this can match a substring anywhere in the input — add anchors if you need the whole value to conform.
- **Greedy “.”.** A greedy `.*` / `.+` can match more than intended. Use a lazy version `(.*?)` or a negated class `[!^...]` to stop at the right place.
- **Validate beyond format.** Matching the format doesn't guarantee the value is real. Confirm the between two strings against a source of truth (database, API, or checksum) where it matters.