

JSON key

Quoted JSON object key (a property name).

```
"([^\\"|\\.])*\\s*:
```

Token-by-token breakdown

Token	Meaning
"	literal text ""
(	start of a capturing group
[^\\"]	any character except "", "\"
	OR — try the alternative
\\	literal "\"
.	any character (except newline)
)*	end of group, zero or more
"	literal text ""
\\s*	zero or more: whitespace
:	literal text ":"

Quick usage in 7 languages

JavaScript	<pre>const re = /"([^\\" \\.])*\\s*:/; re.test(value);</pre>
Python	<pre>import re re.match(r'"([^\\" \\.])*\\s*:', value)</pre>
Java	<pre>Pattern.compile("\"([^\\"\\\\\\\\ \\\\\\\\\\.])*\\s*:").matcher(value).matches();</pre>
C# / .NET	<pre>Regex.IsMatch(value, @"\"([^\\"\\\\ \\\\\\.])*\\s*:");</pre>
Go	<pre>regexp.MustCompile(`\"([^\\" \\.])*\\s*:`).MatchString(value)</pre>
Ruby	<pre>/"([^\\" \\.])*\\s*:/ .match?(value)</pre>
PHP	<pre>preg_match('~\"([^\\" \\.])*\\s*::~', \$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.
- **Watch for backtracking.** This pattern nests quantifiers; on adversarial input that can cause exponential backtracking (ReDoS). Test with long non-matching strings, or use an RE2-based engine.
- **Escape it correctly per language.** In Java and JavaScript strings each backslash must be doubled (\\d); in Python, Go, and C# use raw/verbatim strings so the backslashes survive.
- **Validate beyond format.** Matching the format doesn't guarantee the value is real. Confirm the json key against a source of truth (database, API, or checksum) where it matters.