

TODO / FIXME marker

TODO or FIXME comment marker in code.

```
(TODO|FIXME|HACK|XXX|NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)
```

Token-by-token breakdown

Token	Meaning
(	start of a capturing group
TODO	literal text "TODO"
	OR — try the alternative
FIXME	literal text "FIXME"
	OR — try the alternative
HACK	literal text "HACK"
	OR — try the alternative
XXX	literal text "XXX"
	OR — try the alternative
NOTE	literal text "NOTE"
)	end of group
(	start of a capturing group
\(	literal "("
[^)]+	one or more: any character except ")"
\)	literal ")"
)?	end of group, optional (zero or one)
:	literal text ":"
\s*	zero or more: whitespace
(	start of a capturing group
.*	zero or more of any character
)	end of group

Quick usage in 7 languages

JavaScript	<pre>const re = /(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)/; re.test(value);</pre>
Python	<pre>import re re.match(r"(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)", value)</pre>
Java	<pre>Pattern.compile("(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)").matcher(value).mat ches();</pre>
C# / .NET	<pre>Regex.IsMatch(value, @"(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)");</pre>

Go	<code>regexp.MustCompile(`(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)`).MatchString(value)</code>
Ruby	<code>/(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)/.match?(value)</code>
PHP	<code>preg_match('~(TODO FIXME HACK XXX NOTE)(\[^\]]+\))?:\s*(.*)~', \$value);</code>

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.
- **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 todo / fixme marker against a source of truth (database, API, or checksum) where it matters.