Core regular expressions reference sheet

Quantifiers
+ one or more of the preceding
? one or none of the preceding
* zero or more of the preceding

Anchors
^ beginning of the line
$ end of the line

Escaping
The following special characters need \ to make them literal
\^\[\]\+\?\*

Sometimes also: & ( ) { }

Character classes
Anything within [] means ‘any one of these’, eg
[cat] = ‘c’ or ‘a’ or ‘t’
[a-z] = any letter
[0-9] = any number
Negate with an initial ^, eg [^;] = ‘anything not a semi-colon’

Special characters
. any character
\n line break
\t tab

Back referencing in replacements

This is the main area of variety between software

Either () or \\() around each part of the find expression you want to remember

Then \n or $n to get that value in the replacement, with n being the set of brackets in the sequence: the first is \1 or $1 etc.

Further reading and resources

Mastering Regular Expressions, Jeffrey Friedl, O’Reilly
http://pythex.org/ - enter some text and text a regex find (Python syntax)
https://www.myregextester.com/ - do online find/replace
http://regexp.com/ - display a regex as a railway diagram
https://regex.alf.nu/ - regex golf, if you’re really keen