

# Editing/Formatting

## Remove 3 or more linebreaks (multiple linebreaks)?

A user wrote:

I hope your filter include a feature to remove repeated (multiple, 3 or more in sequence) end of paragraph characters, during a "text cleanup". Of course I need two paragraph marks, one to end the paragraph, and one to provide one line space between paragraphs. In the editing work that I do, that is the single most irritating problem that I encounter, where the author puts more than two paragraph marks.

Your wish is granted (good!)

The RegEx Find & Replace can handle this easily. Well, it WOULD be easy if I were better at RegEx. But I figured it out.

Set as follows:

```
Find: (\s{3,})
Replace: \s
```

**Explanation**  
REGEX is a single return, \s is a whitespace, expressed in backslash notation, understandable by the RegEx parser.  
By placing in round braces {}, that groups them together so that the asterisk \* can treat as a whole. 3 means "at least 3 of these", where "three" are the preceding pattern, which is treated as a whole due to the round braces. The comma after the 3 separates min/max. Here min is 3, and max is unlimited (I could have written (3,999) instead, for example. The max is optional, but the comma isn't - otherwise it would do "only 2".  
We're replacing with 1 carriage return/linefeed.

We're turning off the line-by-line option, so that the linebreaks are visible to the RegEx (otherwise it would not see them).

For this and more RegEx cleanup examples, see

<http://www.thorntons.com/faq/index.php?action=artikel&cat=3&id=7&artlang=en>

Unique solution ID: #1006  
Author: Chris Thornton  
Last update: 2008-11-24 10:05