bash case statements

Sometimes we may wish to take different paths based upon a variable matching a series of patterns. We could use a series of **if** and **elif** statements but that would soon grow to be unwieldily. Fortunately there is a case statement which can make things cleaner. It's a little hard to explain so here are some examples to illustrate:

```
case <variable> in
<pattern 1>)
        <commands>
        ;;
<pattern 2>)
        <other commands>
        ;;
esac
```

Example 1)

```
#!/bin/bash
# case example
case $1 in
        start)
                echo starting
                ;;
        stop)
                echo stoping
                ;;
        restart)
                echo restarting
                ;;
        *)
                echo don\'t know
        ;;
esac
```

Example 2) Regular Expression

```
#!/bin/bash
# Print a message about disk useage.
space_free=$( df -h | awk '{ print $5 }' | sort -n | tail -n 1 | sed 's/%//' )
case $space_free in
        [1-5]*)
                echo Plenty of disk space available
                ;;
        [6-7]*)
                echo There could be a problem in the near future
                ;;
        8*)
                echo Maybe we should look at clearing out old files
                ;;
        9*)
                echo We could have a serious problem on our hands soon
                ;;
        *)
                echo Something is not quite right here
                ;;
esac
```