Use $\varepsilon$ to denote the empty string (""), length 0.

"abc"

"$\varepsilon$" denotes start state

"$\bigcirc$" denotes accepting state

An NFA $N$ accepts a string $w$ if starting in the start state, there is a way to traverse $N$ while reading the input so that

1. each symbol read matches the label of the edge traversed
2. $\varepsilon$-edges can be traversed without reading a char
3. end up in an accepting state after reading the entire input (left to right).