

Most commonly used PHP functions

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Function name	What it does	Example
if, elseif, else	Creates a conditional clause.	<pre>if (\$a > \$b) { echo "a is bigger than b"; } elseif (\$a == \$b) { echo "a is equal to b"; } else { echo "a is smaller than b"; }</pre>
while	Performs a clause as long as the conditional is satisfied. Remember to ensure that the "while" condition is broken at some point or else you will have an infinite loop.	<pre>\$i = 1; while (\$i <= 10) { echo \$i++; // Increments i }</pre>
echo	Prints text.	<pre>echo "Hello World";</pre>
include	Puts another file into the specified location.	<pre>include "file.php";</pre>
require	Same as include, but breaks if the file cannot be evaluated or found.	<pre>require "file.php";</pre>
isset	Checks to see if a variable exists or not. Returns TRUE or FALSE.	<pre>isset(\$a);</pre>
mysql_connect	Makes a connection to a MySQL database. Returns true if connected. Use in conjunction with mysql_close(\$link) ;	<pre>\$link = mysql_connect('localhost', 'mysql_user', 'mysql_password');</pre>
mysql_close	Closes a database connection.	<pre>mysql_close(\$link);</pre>
mysql_select_db	Selects the database to connect to.	<pre>mysql_select_db(\$db_database, \$link);</pre>
mysql_query	Runs a SQL query. Returns true or a resource if successful, false if otherwise.	<pre>\$result = mysql_query('SELECT * WHERE 1=1');</pre>
mysql_fetch_array	Gets a single row or rows of data from a SQL query resource.	<pre>\$row = mysql_fetch_array(\$result)</pre>
get	Gets a URL variable.	<pre>\$name = \$_GET["name"];</pre>
post	Gets a form variable	<pre>\$name = \$_POST["name"];</pre>
fopen	Opens a file for reading ("r") or ("w") writing. Use in conjunction with fclose() .	<pre>\$filename = "myfile.txt"; \$ini_handle = fopen(\$filename, "r"); \$ini_contents = fread(\$ini_handle, filesize(\$filename)); fclose(\$ini_handle);</pre>

fread	Reads the contents of a file. Requires a limit of the number of bytes to read, which can be set to the size of the file.	<pre>\$ini_contents = fread(\$ini_handle, filesize(\$filename));</pre>
fwrite	Writes a string to a file. Use in conjunction with fopen and fread. Adds anything to the end of the file.	<pre>\$fp = fopen('data.txt', 'w'); fwrite(\$fp, '1'); fwrite(\$fp, '23'); fclose(\$fp);</pre>
arrays	Creates a list of items that can be ordered.	<pre>\$array = array(1, 2, 3, 4, 5);</pre>
		<pre>\$arr = array("foo" => "bar", 12 => true);</pre>
		<pre>\$array = array('lastname', 'email', 'phone');</pre>
count	Finds the number of elements in an array	<pre>\$result = count(\$array);</pre>
md5	Creates an md5 encrypted hexadecimal number, useful for storing passwords. (md5 cannot be decrypted, only compared)	<pre>\$val = md5(\$password);</pre>
implode	Splits an array of strings into a string with an optional delimiter.	<pre>\$array = array('lastname', 'email', 'phone'); \$comma_separated = implode(",", \$array);</pre>
explode	Splits a string into an array of strings using a delimiter as a way to divide it.	<pre>\$pizza = "piece1 piece2 piece3 piece4 piece5 piece6"; \$pieces = explode(" ", \$pizza); // \$pieces[0] is now "piece1" and // \$pieces[1] is now "piece2", etc.</pre>
mail	Sends an email. The header must contain a "From"	<pre>\$name = "Me"; // Sender's name \$email = "email@address.com"; // Sender's e-mail address \$recipient = "recipient@emailaddress.com"; // Recipient \$mail_body = "The text for the mail"; // Mail body \$subject = "Subject of the email"; // Subject \$header = "From: ". \$name . " <" . \$email . ">\r\n"; mail(\$recipient, \$subject, \$mail_body, \$header);</pre>
session	Stores a variable that can be referred to multiple times across different pages.	<pre>\$name = \$_SESSION['username']; // Saves the variable into the session as username // Any other page that refers to \$_SESSION['favcolor']; will have \$name in it.</pre>
session_start	Creates or resumes a user session.	<pre>session_start();</pre>
session_destroy	Destroys a session.	<pre>session_destroy();</pre>