

PHP Functions

In this lesson we will show you how to create your own functions.

For a reference and examples of the built-in functions, please visit the W3C functions list,

<http://w3schools.com/php/default.asp>

Create a PHP Function

A function is a block of code that can be executed whenever we need it.

Creating PHP functions:

- All functions start with the word "function()"
- Name the function - It should be possible to understand what the function does by its name. The name can start with a letter or underscore (not a number)
- Add a "{" - The function code starts after the opening curly brace
- Insert the function code
- Add a "}" - The function is finished by a closing curly brace

Create a PHP Function

A simple function that writes my name when it is called:

```
<html>
<body>

<?php
function writeMyName( )
{
    echo "Marcus Oliver Graichen";
}

writeMyName( );
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Use a PHP Function

Now we will use the function in a PHP script:

```
<?php
function writeMyName( )
{
    echo "Marcus Oliver Graichen";
}

echo "Hello world!<br />";
echo "My name is ";
writeMyName( );
echo "<br />That's right, ";
writeMyName( );
echo " is my name.";
?>
```

Use a PHP Function

The output of the code will be:

```
Hello world!  
My name is Marcus Oliver Graichen.  
That's right, Marcus Oliver Graichen is my name.
```

PHP Functions - Adding parameters

Our first function `writeMyName()` is a very simple function. It only writes a static string.

To add more functionality to a function, we can add parameters. A parameter is just like a variable.

You may have noticed the parentheses (brackets!) after the function name, like: `writeMyName()`. The parameters are specified inside the parentheses.

PHP Functions - Adding parameters

The following example will write different first names, but the same last name:

```
<?php
function writeMyName($fname)
{
    echo $fname . " Smith.<br />";
}

echo "My name is ";
writeMyName("John");

echo "My name is ";
writeMyName("Sarah");

echo "My name is ";
writeMyName("Smith");
?>
```

PHP Functions - Adding parameters

The output of the code will be:

```
My name is John smith.  
My name is Sarah Smith.  
My name is Smith Smith.
```


PHP Functions - Adding parameters

The following function has two parameters:

```
<?php
function writeMyName($fname,$punctuation)
{
    echo $fname . " Smith" . $punctuation . "<br />";
}

echo "My name is ";
writeMyName("John",".");

echo "My name is ";
writeMyName("Sarah","!");

echo "My name is ";
writeMyName("Smith","...");
?>
```

PHP Functions - Adding parameters

The output of the code will be:

```
My name is John Smith.  
My name is Sarah Smith!  
My name is Smith Smith...
```

PHP Functions - Return values

Functions can also be used to return values.

```
<html>
<body>

<?php
function add($x,$y)
{
    $total = $x + $y;
    return $total;
}

echo "1 + 16 = " . add(1,16);
?>

</body>
</html>
```

PHP Functions - Return values

The output of the code will be:

```
1 + 16 = 17
```